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### No survivors

Canadian investigators search yesterday through recovered belongings and debris from the downed Swissair Flight 111 at a dock in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia. The airliner crashed into the Atlantic Ocean late Wednesday night, killing all 229 passengers aboard. **Stories, Page 6 (A1)**

## Histadrut suspends strike over weekend

Schools remain closed as negotiations continue

By NINA GILBERT

The Histadrut last night suspended its public sector strike until Sunday at 6 a.m., after its talks with the Treasury broke off yesterday evening. It was agreed to meet again tomorrow night. "We'll start talking business on

**Treasury, teachers trade charges, Page 2**

Saturday night," Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's spokesman said last night.

The Histadrut said that if no progress is achieved in those talks, the strike would resume in full force, beginning with a halt to garbage collection at midnight. It said it decided to suspend the strike for the weekend to prevent suffering by the public.

No progress was made in negotiations with the teachers yesterday, and schools will be closed today as well.

The general strike, which began at 6 a.m. yesterday, kept some 300,000 public sector workers away from their jobs, and resulted

in the closure of all government offices, post offices, local authority departments, Bezeq, railways, ports, and a reduction in services at Kupat Holim Clalit and government hospitals.

The Histadrut instructed life-guarders employed by local authorities to return to work, since schoolchildren, kept home by the teachers' strike, had flocked to the beaches.

Strike headquarters reported that the strike was almost fully implemented.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, 15 flights were delayed last night, due to a breakdown in luggage inspection systems. In the morning, customs inspectors did not show up for work.

Garbage was collected only from hospitals and old-age homes. Firefighters were operating on a Shabbat schedule.

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce said that the strike would cost the economy NIS 25 million-NIS 30m. a day, and accused the Histadrut of exploiting the freedom to strike. The Manufacturers Association said that "the strike was a mistake and came at a terrible time."

Meanwhile, in its budget propos-



Yossi Kucik

(Flash 90)

als to be discussed by the cabinet on Sunday, the Treasury has included proposed legislation that would require a least 50 percent of workers to vote by secret ballot on a strike, and for a majority of those workers to agree to the move in order for it to be legal.

"Great damage is being caused to the economy by the action of militant union leaders who declare strikes while most of the workers oppose them," the Treasury said.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said last night that he had submitted his proposal for a solution to the Treasury, and "it is the only

proposal I will discuss. If [the Treasury] accepts it, the strike will be over; if not, it will continue."

He threatened to expand the strike and close Ben-Gurion Airport if there is no progress in the talks.

Neeman boasted to a news conference that the parking lot at the Finance Ministry was nearly full. However, when he took his seat at the meeting, he nearly took a fall because his chair was broken, and he joked that it could have happened through a conspiracy.

He said that he "still does not know what the strike is about," and called on the Histadrut to resolve differences at the negotiating table.

"It is unreasonable that the entire public should have to suffer because of one sector or another," he said. "I know that the Histadrut wants what is best for its workers, but the Treasury must take into account the good of all citizens."

Neeman and Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik stood firm against the Histadrut's demands for a commitment to change wage scales and to move employees from personnel company contracts onto the state payroll.

**See STRIKE, Page 3**

## Ross expected next week

By DANNA HARMAN

US Mideast envoy Dennis Ross is to make a short visit here in the middle of next week to try to bridge gaps between Israel and the Palestinians.

US President Bill Clinton announced his intention to send Ross to the region while on an official visit to Northern Ireland, a day after speaking by phone with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and

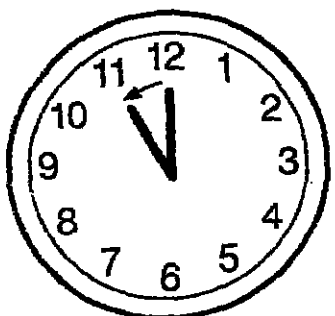
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan characterized the 40-minute talk between the US and Israeli leaders Wednesday evening as "warm, friendly, and wide-ranging," and expressed his hope that while in Israel, Ross would succeed in encouraging the Palestinians to comply with their security obligations.

Bar-Ilan stressed that once such commitments by the Palestinians were secured, Israel would be willing to move forward with the 13 percent pullback.

"The scope of the withdrawal is no longer an issue," said Bar-Ilan, adding that Netanyahu is confident his cabinet will approve such a redeployment under certain conditions.

**See ROSS, Page 12**



### Clocks go back tomorrow

Don't forget to turn the clocks back. Daylight Saving Time will conclude tomorrow night at midnight. At that time, clocks should be moved backward by one hour, from midnight to 11 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time started this year on March 19, and will have been in effect for 170 days.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa has announced he is establishing a committee to examine the whole issue of Daylight Saving Time and make recommendations on the optimum period. Suissa said he wants to set the period for several years, so that the matter does not have to be debated each year.

*Jerusalem Post Staff*

SHABRAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:23 p.m.	7:36 p.m.
Tel Aviv	6:41 p.m.	7:38 p.m.
Haifa	6:33 p.m.	7:38 p.m.
Beer Sheva	6:40 p.m.	7:37 p.m.
Eilat	6:37 p.m.	7:35 p.m.



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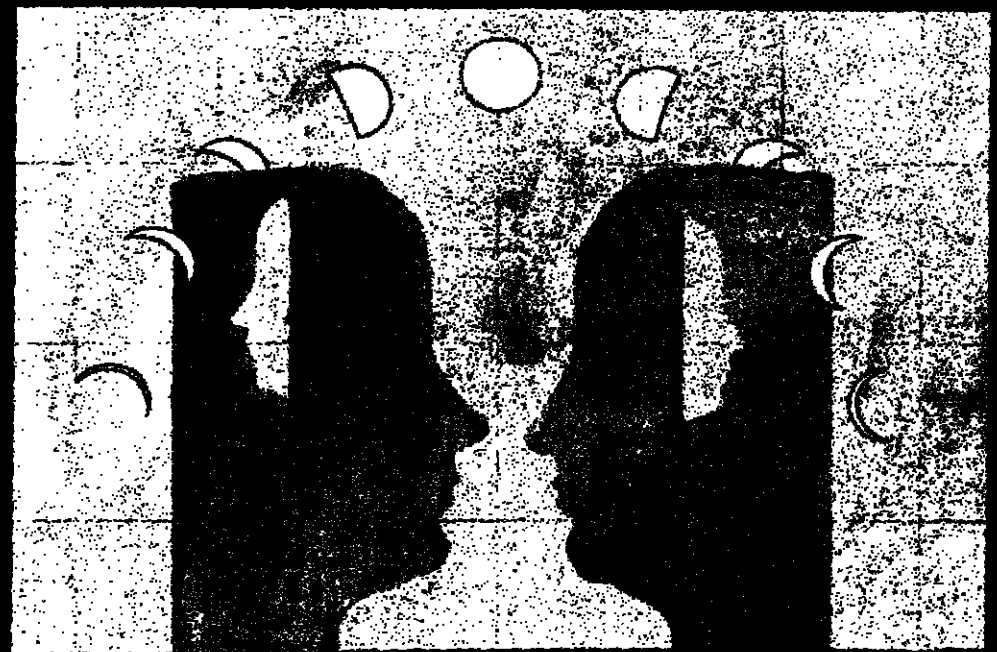
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# Court orders Klingberg freed

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Ailing spy Marcus Klingberg, jailed in 1983 for passing biological warfare secrets to the Eastern Bloc, will be released from prison in two weeks' time after serving 15 1/2 years of his 18-year sentence.

But Klingberg, 80, will be under stringent surveillance 24 hours a day at home and will be allowed to leave his house for only two hours each day, Beersheba District Court, which ruled in favor of his release, decided yesterday.

In handing down its ruling yesterday afternoon, the court noted that "the state must bear in mind humanitarian considerations and not merely security."

"This is an important and humane decision and I sincerely hope the state will not appeal against it," said Klingberg's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, who has been fighting a legal battle for his client's release for more than three years.

Klingberg took his appeal to court when the Prisons Service parole board rejected his request for a third off, in February 1997.

Devora Hen, who represented the State Attorney's Office, asked for time to consider an appeal. The court complied and decided to delay the release for two weeks.

Speaking after the decision, Feldman said that the GSS no longer objected to Klingberg's release on security grounds, since the "mystical" claim that he knew



Marcus Klingberg (Reuters)

something which others could extract from him had been disproven. The testimony of former GSS head Ya'acov Perry had helped in this respect, and the court also considered Klingberg's serious health problems and advanced age, Feldman said.

"He will go back to anonymity and no one will be interested in Klingberg after his release," Feldman said.

An emotional Klingberg said that he thanked the court and his lawyer. "My health has deteriorated rapidly in the past two weeks. I hope I shall have the chance to be in freedom for a while," he said, adding: "No one else has ever been in jail so long for this type of thing in Israel."

Klingberg, a world renowned epidemiologist specializing in germ warfare, disappeared under mysterious circumstances in January 1983 while on his way to

a scientific convention in Europe.

At the time, he was deputy head of the biological research institute in Ness Ziona. A news blackout was imposed on his arrest and trial and he was kept in jail under an assumed identity.

There were rumors that he had defected to Moscow.

Only 10 years later was the blackout lifted and foreign media published reports that Klingberg had handed sensitive information on biological warfare to the Soviet Union and East Germany. The information was said to have damaged not only Israeli interests, but those of the West. The reports said he had been tried and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment.

As deputy head of the Ness Ziona institute, Klingberg frequently travelled abroad, accompanied by his wife, Wanda. They would also go to Switzerland for health treatments, the media reports said. When the scientist was arrested, Wanda, then 70, was with him and was detained on suspicion of aiding her husband. She reportedly tried to commit suicide and was rushed to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv where her life was saved, the reports said. Klingberg himself reportedly tried three times to take his life.

Yesterday Klingberg telephoned from the courtroom to tell his daughter Sylvia of his release, and she decided on the spot to fly here from Paris, where she lives with her husband, Udi Adiv, who was convicted of spying for Syria.



## Terror remembered

Two pupils at Jerusalem's Gymnasia Rehavia high school cry during a ceremony in Jerusalem marking a year since the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall bombing, in which two Gymnasia pupils died. Among those participating were families of the five people killed in the attack and some of the more than 200 wounded.

(Isaac Harel)

# Treasury, teachers trade charges, not proposals

By HERB KEINON

Teachers' representatives and Treasury officials are to meet this morning in a renewed effort to resolve the teachers' strike, which entered its fourth day today.

The two sides traded recriminations yesterday, but no constructive proposals, as the two sides failed to hold face-to-face negotiations for the first time since the school strike began on Tuesday.

Both sides claim that matters have become more complicated because of the general Hissadut strike in the public sector.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy spent the day trying to bridge the gap between the two sides, but to no apparent avail.

"After the teachers' demands for principals, salaries and activity outside the schools were accepted, the teachers should immediately stop their strike and enable the opening of the school year," Levy said.

According to Levy, the teacher's

struggle revolved around those two issues, and that since agreement in principle was reached on the issues on Wednesday, there is no further reason for the strike.

"From the very beginning I supported the teacher's demands regarding the principals' salaries and payment for activity outside of schools, and I even helped gain their achievements on these issues, despite Treasury opposition, because I thought the struggle was just," Levy said. "And now, when the obstacles have been removed, the school year should open and no more damage should be done to students, their parents, the teachers and the teachers' image."

The agreement reached Wednesday would have provided a 25% wage increase for principals, an increase spread over two years, and payment of NIS 500 per day for teachers accompanying school outings. The talks broke down, however, when the Treasury insisted on including this in an overall wage

agreement, while the teachers demanded that overall wage negotiations be held separately.

Meanwhile, Hissadut Teachers Union chief Avraham Ben-Shabbat dismissed as nonsense claims by Treasury officials that the teachers were failing to budget because of competition between the two main teachers unions.

Ben-Shabbat countered that his union, and Ran Erez's Secondary Schools Teachers Association, have never worked in closer tandem.

In addition to Levy, Israel Parents Association Chairman Shai Lachman also took the teachers to task for continuing the strike.

"I am expressing the anger, frustration and disappointment of dozens of parents from all over the country, and a number of teachers, who called us to protest the strike," Lachman said. "The theme of the calls has been that the children have turned into hostages and cannon fodder in the teachers' struggle for supplemental payments and bene-

fits. We are not talking about base pay, but supplements. Granted, they are important, but are they important enough to strike?"

Lachman said the strike is harming the image of the teachers, and damaging the educational system. "It is possible they will twist the

Treasury's arms and get some monetary and professional benefits, but it will be an empty victory," he said. "The strike and [last year's] sanctions have left scorched earth in the educational system. Every profession has a Hippocratic oath. Now I do not think the teachers are acting

faithfully to their profession."

Levy said he would not agree to a single shekel cut in his ministry's budget, and would present his proposed budget calling for a NIS 1.7 billion increase. He said almost a billion shekels had been cut from the education budget since the gov-

ernment took office, seriously reducing the level of education in Israel. He said his office wants to expand the long school day, add schools in the Arab and Beduin sector, and absorb the Falash Mura in the education system, among other projects.

## Expert: School outings teach pupils important lessons

With pay for escorting students on school trips a key issue in the teachers' strike, parents at wit's end juggling their work schedules with Junior's strike-imposed vacation could be excused for thinking: "Forget the school trips already. Who needs to camp near the Kinneret? Just get the kids back to class."

But that approach, said Ehud Prawer, principal at Jerusalem's Gymnasia Rehavia, would be a big mistake. Prawer, who wrote his master's dissertation on the role of the school outing, said trips are a cornerstone of the country's educational system. And that says nothing about the hundreds of millions of dollars these trips generate each year.

In the pre-state days, even before the British Mandate, the trips were an integral part of the curriculum in the first Zionist schools.

"The trips were a way to acquaint people who came to Israel with the land - a land they con-

sidered their homeland, even though they were not born here," Prawer said.

From the beginning of the gymnasia in Palestine in 1906, the expeditions were considered a central element of Zionist education. The trips began in the secular schools, and only much later were adopted by religious schools, Prawer said.

"The first tours gave many teachers, and all the pupils, an opportunity to discover the land," Prawer said. "They went long distances, to the Hermon, Jerusalem, Hebron, the Jordan. It was an attempt to connect the youth to the scenery, and the land's past."

The trips' nature changed over time, first by going to sites that were not of strictly Jewish interest, and then by focusing on nature and ecological aspects. But even today, he said, these trips are an important mechanism through which the students get to know different parts

of the country.

"Today, the traveling habits of families have changed," Prawer said. "You always find that you are taking kids to places they have never been before."

The trips today serve less as a device to connect students to the land, since so many of the students are no longer immigrants and children of immigrants, but third- and fourth-generation Israelis. However, the expeditions do serve as a way to unite the students, something Prawer said the educational system still views as a very high priority.

"The idea of creating a feeling of togetherness is very important here," Prawer said. "The trips are a tool to create this togetherness, something that US schools don't deal with. Schools here are involved in nation building, and the values of being together are very important."

Herb Keinon

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סכר מן האהל



# Gov't hospitals to cut services

Starting Monday, only life-saving services to be provided

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday reacted "with fury" to an announcement by heads of the government hospitals that they will severely reduce services starting Monday.

Dr. Ya'acov Hart, who heads the government hospital directors' committee, along with Sheba Hospital deputy director Dr. Ze'ev Rothstein and government hospital doctors' union chairman Dr. Elisha Barov, said that only life-saving treatments will be offered.

The hospital managers were especially upset by new instructions from the Treasury's accountant-general to operate according to their actual financial condition and not their approved budgets; if they had no money, they could not spend any.

The main cause of their distress is the health funds' debts of NIS 400 million to the hospitals. The health funds are short of money because the Finance Ministry refuses to hand over some NIS 600 million in payments and loans until the

health funds sign agreements limiting their expenditure, without knowing the extent of their income for next year.

Hart said that if the hospitals don't reduce their functioning to an absolute minimum next week, they will collapse altogether. He added that the institutions are preparing to close down cafeterias so that enough funds will be left to purchase drugs and disposable equipment for patients.

The doctors called on the government to abrogate the accountant-general's order. They also urged the public to put pressure on the government to change its tight-fisted policies regarding health care.

The general state hospitals include Sheba, Ichilov, Assaf Harofeh, Wolfson, Hillel Yaffe, Rambam, Bnai Zion, Poriya, Barzilai, and Steif. Matza, who is due to meet next week with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the crisis in the health system, warned the hospital directors "against carrying out their struggle on the backs of the patients."

He also denied that the government hospitals had received instructions from his ministry to operate according to an emergency schedule and called plans for reducing services to a minimum "a strike."

Matza met with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday morning and explained the dire situation in the hospitals. Neeman "promised to find an intermediate funding solution so the hospitals could continue operating," Matza said.

Matza also met this week with heads of the hospitals not owned either by the government or Kupat Holim Clalit, including Hadassah-University hospitals, Shaare Zedek, and Laniado. They said they had never known such a precarious financial situation and claimed they don't have enough financial reserves to function for more than a few days.

Meanwhile, Clalit's hospitals are due to return to normal at 7 a.m. today after the reduced functioning instituted during yesterday's Histadrut strike.



Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz monitors the news in the Histadrut situation room in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

## Little sympathy on the street for strikers

By AMY KLEIN

Yesterday was not a good day to run errands.

People in the private sector who took the day off to take care of personal business — at any government or municipal office, the National Insurance Institute, Kupat Holim Clalit, the Employment Service, or Israel Electric Corporation — were out of luck. The general strike affected almost everybody.

Israel Radio and Television started off the morning badly, with their stations emitting a high-pitched emergency whine in honor of the strike.

Most people on the streets of Jerusalem did not support the general strike, and often confused it with the teachers' strike. Some said it was good that the strikes were simultaneous, so at least parents could accompany their kids to the mall or beach.

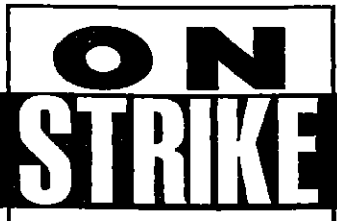
A number of late-morning stragglers who hadn't heard

about the strike yanked a locked post-office door in the Noyot neighborhood of Jerusalem, only to be informed by customers at the adjacent coffee shop about the strike.

The Jerusalem Municipality published a request to residents not to take out their garbage over the weekend "in order to preserve the cleanliness of the city over Shabbat."

It wasn't a good day to be sick either, with Magen David Adom and government hospital emergency rooms and intensive care operating on a Shabbat schedule. Terem, a private medical service, said they had seen many more patients.

In town, business was slower than usual, cafe and restaurant owners said. "It's amazingly quiet," said the owner of a coffee



shop in Nahalat Shiva. "The schools are out, there's no business. I hate the strike."

A fast-food store owner agreed. "If it's not a strike, it's not a terrorist attack. If it's not a terrorist attack it's something else. This is a crazy country."

Yuval Kohavi, a jewelry store owner, disagreed. Business was up, he said, but he didn't care. "I have no sympathy for the people on strike. They're doing what's good for them, and that just attests to the deteriorating economic and political situation in this country," he said.

Merav, a 22-year-old student also didn't care about the strike: "I heard the buses were running. That's enough for me."

But at the Finance Ministry — the place which could make or break the strike — it was almost

business as usual. "We aren't getting paid, so why should we strike?" said Ruti Reibibo. She said if the ministry would be blocked by strikers, she would "climb through the window to get to work" so she would be paid.

Other strikers also lamented the loss of pay, even when they sympathized with the cause. "I think it's logical because we need a pay rise, but they need to let us work while they negotiate," said a 25-year-old National Insurance worker from Ramot who couldn't go to work even if she wanted to because her office was blocked by strikers.

The only person interviewed to express support for the strike was an American tourist, who attributed it to the crazy ways of a foreign land.

"I was told this happens every year," said Molly, 24, from Washington, DC. "I guess if people feel they need to strike, then that's what they should do."



Girls check out the movie offerings yesterday at the Jerusalem Mall, where the theaters opened for extra daytime showings to accommodate youngsters still out of school due to the teachers' strike. (Brian Hendler)

## No quick concessions on offer

### BACKGROUND

On the eve of the general strike of December 1997, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman likened the Histadrut to "home-grown bombs." In the current strike, he warned that the Histadrut would drive Israel into the "stormy sea" of world economic chaos.

Neeman, one of the country's leading attorneys, talks tough. But in December he gave in to most of the Histadrut's key demands, chiefly on pension benefits, after a strike of only five days.

Will he concede again this time and grant the workers the substantial salary increases they're



Yaakov Neeman (Israel Sun)

demanding, or will he stare the Histadrut down and hold public sector wages at their present level, as he vows to do?

Moshe Nissim, who was finance minister from 1986-88, said that while he thinks the December

strike ended without a clear winner, the Histadrut "is convinced it won a great victory over Neeman, so it feels it has the momentum." But this could shift, Nissim said, if Neeman and the government win public support by making the case that granting the Histadrut's demands will refuel inflation.

"Above all, the government must show backbone, even if the strike goes on a long time," he said. "In Israel, every labor dispute is won by the side that has the most staying power."

Political commentator Hanan Crystal said the man to watch is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In all economic matters that have large political implications, he said, "Neeman is a clerk. Netanyahu calls the shots."

He pointed out that in the teachers' strike, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy was ready to sign a contract, but Neeman didn't give his financial backing, which indicated that Netanyahu thought he stood to benefit from the strike — and from the public sector strike that immediately followed.

"This isn't a popular strike. The public doesn't understand the reason for it, and doesn't support it. Evidently Netanyahu thinks he can gain politically by blaming the public's inconvenience on the Histadrut, which is linked to the Labor Party," Crystal said.

Either way, Nissim's or Crystal's, there is no reason to think Neeman or Netanyahu is planning another quick concession to the strikers — at least not this week.

### STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

"These measures constitute increases in real wages," said Kucik. The Treasury is insisting there will be no raises beyond inflation. Kucik said that in his four years on the job, he has never seen such a "weird" strike.

However, he said that much

progress had been made on pension issues and pay scales for local authority workers.

Turning to the teachers' strike, he said that the teachers' unions have "fallen off the planet" and that parents and children have fallen victim to a struggle between two teachers' unions which are outdoing the other with "wild wage demands" for principals and for compensation for school trips.

### Winning numbers

In yesterday's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 688726 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 401434 won the car. Tickets 280370, 629386, 740931, 586675, 676152, 584733, 180815 and 355975 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 00789, 75033, 85898, 47671, 93803, 75129, 62882, 07325, 42032, 95358, 54796, 27585, 02890, 08232, 30135, 28824, 37616, 84599 and 85667 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 540, 057, 777 and 038 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 69, 00, 05 and 89 won 40 NIS 30. Tickets ending in 89 and 74 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 7 and 2 won NIS 10.



### Shloshim of Manuel Sielecky

Manuel Sielecky of Buenos Aires, Argentina, whose shloshim is being marked next week, is shown speaking at the dedication of the Sielecky Family Gates, at the entrance to the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University, in June 1996. Manuel, his wife, Lilli, and the entire Sielecky family participated in that event. Manuel Sielecky was a long-time member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, and was among its most generous supporters. He received an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from the Hebrew University this past June.

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Since the beginning of the year

## Police open 143 files on Hebron Jews

By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

Hebron police have opened 143 files against Jews so far this year, Judea and Samaria Police Commander Yitzhak Aharonovitch said yesterday at a press briefing at the Hebron police station.

Thirty-seven files were closed after the perpetrators were not found, 24 were handed over to the state attorney's office to file charges, and 82 are still under investigation, he said.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said the figures cited by Aharonovitch related to the period from the beginning of January until August. For the same period in 1997, Sivan said Hebron police opened 134 files against Jewish residents.

Since the murder of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'an on August 20, 15 files have been opened against Jewish residents and 11 against Palestinians, he said. Of the 15, Aharonovitch said the majority were for arson or property damage.

Police have completed investigating nine of the 15 files, and charges will be filed against three

suspects, including Elisheva and Noam Federman and Boaz Haetzni. Six files are still under investigation, added Sivan.

While police attempt to deal with both Jewish and Palestinian residents equally, Aharonovitch stressed the lack of cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, who when approached by Israel police to question a suspect who assaulted a Jewish resident or clashed with IDF troops do not assist in turning over the perpetrator.

Due to the tensions in the area, Aharonovitch decided to add eight more policemen to the Hebron police station. He stressed that there is a very small minority of lawbreakers among the Jewish residents in Hebron and Kiryat Arba, and called on the public to refrain from smearing the entire settlement community throughout Judea and Samaria.

Meanwhile police have intensified their activities in Hebron due to the rise in tension there. Aharonovitch stressed that tension has been building since the murder of Dov Driben in Maon, the two yeshiva students at Yitzhar and

Ra'an at Tel Rumeida. As Aharonovitch was briefing journalists, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon met with settlement leaders at the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Council director general Aharon Domb said the three-hour meeting mainly dealt with security matters and relations between security forces and the settlers.

Domb said the settlement leaders hoped there would be more such meetings with Ayalon in the future. Meanwhile Palestinian Authority officials accused Israel of violating the agreements by carrying out archeological digs at Tel Rumeida. Civil Administration Spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner rejected the charges, and explained the dig was linked to the construction of a military structure and is therefore a security matter.

PA official Mahmoud Jabarin, overseeing the digs, called for the work to stop, claiming Israel had made use of the recent curfew to continue work at the site. Lerner rejected the claims, explaining that work had begun long before the curfew had been imposed.



### Seeking new school

Shas pupils and supporters demonstrate yesterday in the Makor Baruch neighborhood of Jerusalem, demanding that the municipality lease Shas the Moriah school, currently used by the National Religious Party for a technical college serving some 70 students. MK Nissim Dahan said the school could hold about 600 students who currently learn in caravans or overcrowded classrooms. (Text: Amy Klein; photo: Flash 90)

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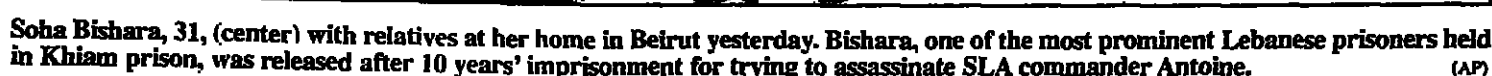
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سكنى من الامل



## Soha Bishara served 10 years for shooting SLA commander

The circumstances of her release were unclear. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said French President Jacques Chirac played a key role in securing Bishara's freedom.



Bishara walked out of the Khiam detention camp in the security zone

France, Lebanon's former colonial ruler where thousands of Lebanese of various political and religious

Bishara, a communist activist, shot Lahad on November 7, 1988, at his house in Mariavoun, report-

captured and was held at the SLA-run detention center in Khiam without charges or trial all this time.

*in brief*

In his petition, Rubinstein cited the court's ruling that Lederman was a threat to public safety because of his ideological convictions, his lack of remorse, and his previous convictions for serious crimes.

The municipality has not said when work on stage two, which will add an additional lane each way and extend it to Jerusalem's Neveh Ya'acov neighborhood, will begin.

The new chairman of the task force, Ramy Hassman, said the ministry's budget is only NIS 1.3 million a year.

Hassman said that the task force was informed by the ministry this week that it was cancelling its NIS 30,000 grant for education and information work against AIDS.

*Judy Siegel*

"Jews are the bloodsuckers of our community," Khalid Abdul Muhammad said Wednesday in Harlem. "They take tractor-trailer loads of money out of our community on a daily and consistent basis. They take it into theirs, making it richer and whiter." Those remarks echoed a 1993 speech that

Asked how he felt about the flight sentences those who used his services received, Friedman said: "Everyone's abandoning the *Titanic*, and I'm the last one left." (Itim)

-----  
**TEL AVIV JERUSALEM C**

"It's a daunting task," he said. "It will take time and there is going to be confusion." The distribution is expected to take four years.

The potentially volatile mixture was among the aspects expected to be investigated by the committee of inquiry. There were no casualties in the incident, after the driver and escort on the truck managed to jump clear. There were no civilian casualties either, although the incident raised serious questions

The Military Police also opened an inquiry into the incident and the findings will be submitted to the military prosecutors office.

Mandela made his comments at the opening of the Nonaligned Movement summit in Durban, which was attended by Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat.

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## Lonely are the wired

The electronic global village of love and togetherness is a crock, and that's scientifically official.

Last week a \$1.5 million research project delivered the first serious sociological study of what living in cyberspace can do to you. It can plunge you rapidly into depression, loneliness, and unreality.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

That was a shock to the social scientists at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, and to the top-line information industries who financed them and expected entirely different results.

A few years ago, the *New Yorker* magazine, in one of its typical brilliant moments of social enlightenment, beat the scientists to it and fired the first warning shot across the bows of the newly-novel Internet. In a cartoon that has become a 1990s classic, a wistful dog sat in front of a computer and declared: "On the Internet, no one knows you're a dog." It amused me then to note that the neutral dog was immediately taken to be male.

### Wolf pack

The Internet was then almost exclusively male and geek, and after seeing the dog cartoon, the words of Balzhazar's song from *Much Ado About Nothing* hummed inexplicably through my head: "Sigh no more ladies, sigh no more, men were deceivers ever. One foot in sea and one on shore. To one thing constant never."

"Is it not strange that sheep's guts should hale souls out of men's bodies," said Benedict of Balzhazar's haunting melody. Would it not be strange if the World Wide Web should hail dogs out of men's minds?

Not just dogs, but slaving wolves. On Wednesday, police across 14 countries in Europe, North America, and Australia simultaneously banged on the doors of over 100 people, arrested them and seized their computers. It was the first major raid of an Internet-Interpol into a world-wide perv web of pedophiles called the Wonderland club. The police grabbed over 100,000 pornographic pictures of abused children.

"It's stomach-turning stuff, for any right-minded person," said Supt. John Stewardson, of the British police, who coordinated the international dragnet.

No modern journalist or academic can now work without consulting the electronic oracle that is the Internet, yet I for one was not surprised by the Pittsburgh research which suggests cyberspace is a weird and debilitating place.

### Shallow yellow

This is true not for geeks and loner computer jockeys, says the Carnegie Mellon report. In itself, Internet use causes a decline in psychological well-being in normal adults and their families, the two years of research revealed.

"We were shocked by the

findings, because they are counter-intuitive to what we know about how the Internet is being used socially," one of the senior researchers told an interviewer.

So much for the intellectual superiority of the Internet (interactive) over television (passive). To see a person getting their first e-mail in seconds from a lost relative far away is to be convinced that the Internet is a modern social miracle. So where comes the depression?

It seems relationships by e-mail and web sites become depressing if they are with real friends and family because, after the novelty wears off, they remind everyone of how dispersed they are and how little they see one another in real reality. Virtual doesn't cut it.

Even worse, relationships begun with strangers on the Internet start as exciting, and cut quickly to the shallow and superficial. (At the time Deep Blue was playing chess with human grandmasters, my wife perceptively named our computer Shallow Yellow.)

A virtual and shallow cyber-relationship becomes "real," causing the uneasy cyberspace disorientation of sensory deprivation.

### Real things

As humans, we need to catch the fleeting glance, the passing touch, the spontaneous grin, even the flash of irritation, that make our relationships as real and wholesome as fresh-baked bread. Even a love affair starts with a twinkle in the eye.

Anyone who has felt a brief flash of revulsion on seeing their computer for the first time after a vacation knows the researchers are on the right track - lonely are the wired.

The truth will slowly dawn on us all: The Internet is an information highway, not a social club or a singles bar. It is good for going somewhere with your research, but would you go to a party on the side of a motorway, or pick up a stranger there?

The reclusive Polish Nobel-winning poet Wislawa Szymborska told a *Washington Post* interviewer this week that the book remains the unchallenged medium for creative communication. "Those who are devoid of imagination go to theaters and cinemas, but nothing happens after. The book needs the cooperation of its readers... That makes the book superior."

Years ago, I once chided a gay artist friend in Nicosia for always being surrounded by beautiful women, when I was having difficulty finding a date. "Oh, Thomas," said he, with a languid wave of a limp wrist, "women are all right, but there's nothing like the real thing." (He added that anyway, he was a closet heterosexual.)

He has now passed on, but I do not think he would have liked the Internet.

## Iran war games send warning to Taleban

By BARRY MAY

DUBAI (Reuters) - Large-scale Iranian maneuvers on the border with Afghanistan are a warning to the Taleban militia which they cannot afford to ignore, military analysts said yesterday.

Fighters of the purist Islamic movement which rules about 90 percent of Afghanistan, though battle-hardened and determined, could not muster enough forces to match the 70,000 Iranians engaged in three days of exercises only 60 km. from the border, the analysts added.

Revolutionary Guards, paratroopers, and commandos using tanks, mock air attacks, and heavy artillery were involved in the war games - the largest conducted in the region either before or since the 1979 revolution.

Iranian newspapers said the bulk of Iran's forces taking part in the exercises would remain in the rugged border area.

The exercise follows heightened tension between Iran's Shi'ite government and the Sunni Taleban over the fate of 11 Iranian diplomats and a correspondent of the official Islamic Republic News Agency

missing since the fall of the Afghan opposition's northern stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8.

Iran said they were arrested. The Taleban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, said on Tuesday they were "probably dead."

"There's a big question as to whether they are still alive, and so things are not going to look good if it comes to light eventually that they have been killed. Things could get nasty along that border," said Terence Taylor, of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Taleban officials have described the Iranian war games as threatening behavior and warned against any escalation of tension on the border.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the exercises are a warning to the Taleban.

The Taleban released five Iranian captives yesterday, but none of those missing from Mazar-i-Sharif were among them.

The Taleban militia, though relatively few in number, have shown they are able to mobilize and concentrate their fighters wherever they have needed to apply pressure.

# Swissair jet crashes, killing 229

By WILLY PALOW

PEGGY'S COVE, Nova Scotia (Reuters) - Rescue teams searched for bodies in rough, rain-swept seas off Canada's Atlantic coast yesterday after a Swissair jet crashed into the ocean, killing all 229 people on board.

Officials said there could be no survivors from the MD-11 plane which plunged into the ocean on Wednesday night while attempting an emergency landing in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after pilots reported smoke in the cabin.

"It is almost certain that there are no survivors," Swissair spokesman Roland Breidler said.

Airline officials said 136 of the 215 passengers flying from New York to Geneva were US citizens. Thirty were French and 28 Swiss. There were 14 crew members on board.

"There is no information at this point to indicate that this is a terrorism incident," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, traveling with US President Bill Clinton in Northern Ireland.

World-renowned AIDS researcher Dr. Jonathan Mann, 51, head of Harvard University's AIDS research program and founding director of the World Health Organization's global AIDS program, was aboard the plane with his wife, WHO officials said.

Several other UN officials were also on board the flight, known as "the UN shuttle" because it connects the world body's headquarters in New York with the center of its European operations.

"We expect no survivors," Philippe Bruggisser, the chief executive of Swissair's parent company SAIR Group told reporters in Zurich.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known but Royal Canadian Mounted Police divers were hunting for the "black box" flight recorder.

Navy divers equipped with sonar

were searching for larger sections of the plane, RCMP Cpl. Frank Skidmore told a news conference.

Referring to possible survivors, he added: "Strange things have happened, but we're not optimistic at this time."

Canadian and US aviation authorities quickly launched a probe into the crash.

"What we are doing is looking at everyone who touched the airplane," said Fred Morrone, director of public safety for the Port

Authority of New York and New Jersey.

SAIR Group's Bruggisser declined to speculate on what might have caused the worst crash in Swiss aviation history. Both Swissair and the MD-11 aircraft type had exceptional safety records before the crash.

Hours after the crash, rescue teams searching a 30-square-mile area by searchlight recovered dozens of bodies, but declined to give a precise number. The tail section of the plane had also been

found, said Canadian Navy spokesman Andre-Ereault.

Swissair officials said two infants were among the 229 on board Flight 111, flown by Swiss Urs Zimmermann, 50, with co-pilot Stephan Loew, 36, also from Switzerland.

The mood around the crash site was grim.

"Fishermen are coming on the VHF radio asking for body bags and pleading at some points for the navy to take bodies off their boats."

They don't want any more bodies on their boats," said Canadian Broadcasting Corporation journalist Rob Gordon.

He described an eerie scene at the search zone, where scores of ships searched while flares threw a ghostly light over floating bodies, severed limbs, torn life rafts, life jackets and plane wreckage.

More than 1,000 people joined the search effort, concentrated five miles off the town of Peggy's Cove, which involved a dozen military planes and helicopters, two warships and scores of Canadian Coast Guard vessels and fishing boats.

The plane's pilot radioed Halifax traffic controllers at 9:14 p.m. EDT to report smoke in the cabin and said fuel was being dumped in preparation for an emergency landing in Halifax. Minutes later, the plane dropped off the radar.

Michael Goldfarb, former Federal Aviation Authority chief of staff, told CNN there are 15 minutes of taped conversation between the pilots and air traffic controllers which should help further the investigation. Details were not available.

Residents in the nearby town of Blandford said the aircraft screamed overhead very low, then they heard a loud bang.

Isabel Hubley, 80, lives five minutes from the crash site and actually helped local rescue teams locate where the plane had gone down.

"I was sitting where I couldn't see out the window. But I jumped and put my windows down. I said holy smoke, that didn't give me no warning. It sounded like a big clap of thunder because it rattled the house," she said.

Blandford area resident Edie Boyle told Reuters: "I thought at first it was a helicopter, all I heard was a big boom, like a sonic boom. The plane went right overhead, it was very, very low. It sounded terrible. I joked that it sounded like a UFO because it was just droning."

## Halifax prepares for Jewish victims' families

By MARILYN HENRY and JUDY SIEGEL

The small Jewish community of Halifax, Nova Scotia, yesterday began to prepare for the Jewish crash victims of Swissair Flight 111 and their relatives, organizing guest housing for Shabbat, kosher meals, and arrangements for the *hebra kadisha*.

Inquiries from family members of Swissair passengers began arriving at the office of the Atlantic Jewish Council before dawn, less than 10 hours after the crash, said Jon Goldberg, the executive director.

The first inquiry came from Gush Etzion, from the family of crash victim Dr. Jonathan Mann, a former professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and a pioneer in the fight against AIDS. The family, which said it was planning to leave soon for Halifax, requested information about the local *hebra kadisha*.

The passengers' families will require services that are not available in Halifax, Goldberg said, adding that he expects up to 50 Jews to be among the victims.

"We have no Jewish funeral home here and in the *hebra*

*kadisha*, we're all volunteers," Goldberg said. "I have no idea of what to do."

There are two synagogues and 1,500 Jews in Nova Scotia - half of them in Halifax, which is 550 miles northeast of Boston.

"We are mobilizing people to take guests for Shabbat. Someone asked for a kosher restaurant. We're not Queens," Goldberg said, referring to the heavily Jewish borough of New York.

He encouraged family members to remain at home until authorities notify them. The recovery of passengers' bodies is a slow process.

"Who knows how long they would have to wait? There's nothing to do here," Goldberg said.

But, he said, when the families arrive, the Halifax Jews will welcome them. "We're here to help any Jewish people who need it."

The deaths of Mann and his wife are a great loss to Israel, where he lived for a year as a child and which he advised about dealing with AIDS, said Inon Schenker, director of the Jerusalem AIDS Project.

Schenker, whose program educates young people about AIDS, said last night he was shocked by their deaths, as Mann was his



Dr. Jonathan Mann (AP)

"mentor."

Mann spent a year studying at the Gymnasia Rehavia in Jerusalem when he was 11 and his parents were contemplating aliyah. His father worked as a psychiatrist at Hadassah-University Hospital during this period.

After founding the Global Program on AIDS, the UN-AIDS organization, in 1986, he travelled around the world teaching how to prevent infection. He made frequent visits to Israel, even though its AIDS rates are significantly lower than in most places he went. He also had Israeli relatives.

## Long wait ends in tragedy for families

By ELIF KARAN

GENEVA (Reuters) - The sobbing of people whose loved ones will not be coming home yesterday rose above the din of airport announcements of flight departures and arrivals and busy duty free shops.

A middle-aged woman on a stretcher wept uncontrollably. A crying young couple held each other. Mothers, grandmothers, bankers, expatriates and people from all walks of life lined up at a reception desk, filling out forms and giving details to help identification.

It was the worst-case scenario for relatives of the passengers and crew of ill-fated Swissair Flight 111 en route to Geneva from New York when it crashed into Canadian waters on

Wednesday night. For more than 100 family members of the victims, the business lounge where normally bankers quietly sip their coffee and read newspapers turned into a scene of despair.

"He was there, oh my God, he was there," wept an elderly father, hearing his son's name read out from a list of 229 people including two babies, aboard the crashed plane.

A middle-aged Mexican woman, Lidia Picco, wept as she explained why her sister was on the way to Geneva. "I invited her, I paid for her ticket to come, and now she's dead," she sobbed.

Nurses in white quietly walked down the corridor and psychologists tried to comfort people finding it hard to come to terms with what had happened.



Russia's Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin checks his watch during a farewell ceremony for US President Bill Clinton at Vnukovo Airport yesterday. Clinton left Moscow after two days of meetings with President Boris Yeltsin. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin tries to revive pact, ruble plunges, Duma digs in

By TIMOTHY HERITAGE

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin made a new bid to reach a compromise with parliament and end a deep political crisis yesterday by reviving a pact which could wrench away some of his sweeping powers.

He tried to take the initiative in the crisis as the ruble plunged to a new low, falling to much less than half its value of three weeks ago, and people crammed into banks in the mostly vain hope of withdrawing their ruble savings.

But Yeltsin's Communist foes stood their ground. They vowed to step up moves to impeach him and confirmed they would block confirmation of prime minister-designate Viktor Chernomyrdin today in the second of three possible votes in parliament.

That pushed Russia closer to a showdown. Yeltsin would have to dissolve the Duma and call an early parliamentary election if it rejected his candidate three times. But impeachment moves would block a dissolution and create a constitutional vacuum.

"Everything that's wrong with our country in the minds of our [people] is connected with Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, whose party is the dominant force in the Duma, told US television network ABC.

Repeated warnings of civil unrest in the past few days sparked rumors on Western financial markets of military activity outside Moscow yesterday. The Defense

Ministry quickly dismissed the reports as "nonsense."

The Kremlin said Yeltsin was working on documents at his Gorky-9 residence outside Moscow after his two-day summit with US President Bill Clinton, who left for Ireland yesterday.

But despite Yeltsin's absence from the Kremlin, his aides launched fresh efforts to reach a compromise.

Yeltsin's chief of staff, Valentin Yumashev, held talks with Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznyov to try to persuade the chamber to back Chernomyrdin.

Yumashev said Yeltsin wanted to revive talks on a political agreement which the opposition backed out of on Sunday, even though it would have reduced Yeltsin's powers to name the cabinet and prevented him from dissolving the Duma for a year.

The Kremlin said it would send Yeltsin's amended version of the agreement to the Duma later yesterday, but that the changes would be "insignificant."

Despite this, Seleznyov told a news conference Yeltsin was ready to alter laws on the government to cede some of his powers.

The Speaker, a Communist, said Yeltsin could give up the power to appoint ministers to the prime minister but Seleznyov said he doubted the president would offer parliament the greater role it has sought in determining the cabinet line-up.

Chernomyrdin won the support of only 94 of the Duma's 450 members in a first vote on his candidacy on Monday and is likely to

be voted down again today. He needs at least 226 votes.

Nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said his Liberal Democratic Party would now back Chernomyrdin. But the Communist Party and its two left allies have 212 deputies and can count on the votes of some independent parliamentarians.

A government source said Chernomyrdin would outline "radical" proposals to end the financial crisis in a speech to the upper house of parliament today but gave no details.

A new opinion poll showed only 26 percent of respondents wanted Yeltsin to remain president, nearly half wanted his powers curbed and 67% blamed him for Russia's problems.

Thirty-four percent blamed Chernomyrdin's previous government, sacked in March.

Seleznyov said the Duma might be ready to vote on formally impeaching Yeltsin next week. The move would need 300 votes in the Duma and is unlikely ever to reach a conclusion. But once proceedings were under way, Yeltsin could not dissolve the Duma.

The economic woes, which have made Yeltsin weaker than at any time since he became president in 1991, deepen by the day.

The ruble was officially set at 13,4608 to the dollar yesterday under a new system, and then slid in trading on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) to a bid/offer rate of 16,000/22,000 the dollar. It stood at 6.21 on August 14.

## Were you prepared for the current market correction?

## COMMSTOCK COMMENTARY

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# Clinton in Belfast: Support peace

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN

BELFAST (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton yesterday warned Northern Ireland that it faces more acts of violence on the road to peace, but urged its citizens to back those trying to end three decades of bloodshed.

"To the people of Northern Ireland I say, it is your will for peace that has brought your country to this moment of hope," Clinton said. "Do not let it slip away. It will not come again in our lifetimes."

Clinton, who in 1995 became the first sitting US president to visit the British-ruled province, has been a strong supporter of the Anglo-Irish peace drive that led in April to an accord between the feuding parties to end years of guerrilla strife.

Joined by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Clinton addressed members of the new Northern Ireland Assembly saying the real test would be the ability of the province's people to abandon the ways of the past.

Clinton, who later in the day was to visit the square in Omagh where a car bomb killed 28 and injured more than 200 last month, said: "There will be hard road ahead. The terror in Omagh was not the last bomb of the Troubles, it was the opening shot of the vicious attack on peace."

"The question is not whether there will be more bombs and more attempts to undo with violence the verdict of the ballot box. There may well be. The question is how will you react to it all, to the violence?" Clinton urged Catholics and Protestants to set aside memories of the past and "lend your leaders the support they need to make the hard but necessary decisions... you voted for a future different from the past."

Even the venue for his speech, Waterfront Hall, is rich in symbolism. Formally opened last year, the unblemished structure has come to represent the hopes for a better future in a city scarred by strife.

The so-called "Good Friday



US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair applaud the speech of Northern Ireland Assembly First Minister David Trimble yesterday in Belfast.

agreement" signed on April 10 was reached shortly after Clinton brought key representatives of the rival factions to the White House and encouraged them to put aside their differences.

Although the US has gone out of its way to avoid a direct official role in the peace efforts, its behind-the-scenes efforts have helped prod the parties to break the stalemate.

Former senator George Mitchell, who attended Clinton's address and was welcomed warmly by the crowd, chaired the multi-party talks that led to the agreement.

US officials clearly were upbeat about the announcement earlier this week by Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, that it is renouncing violence and appointing a senior official to liaise with a commission designed to tackle the sensitive issue of disarmament.

Shortly after Air Force One arrived in Belfast from Moscow, where Clinton had summit talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, White House National Security Adviser Samuel Berger told reporters the US was delighted

that Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and Unionist David Trimble, appointed first minister of the 108-member assembly, would hold talks on Monday.

In London, meanwhile, Britain's drive to put renegade Irish guerrillas behind bars won parliamentary support after debate lasting until dawn.

The House of Commons swept aside some members' protests that the government was trying to bounce them into passing draconian anti-terror measures too quickly, giving the bill its final reading.

The bill approved overnight was to be debated by the House of Lords later yesterday before becoming law.

Prime Minister Tony Blair called parliament back from its summer break on Wednesday to consider the legislation, which makes it easier to convict people of belonging to outlawed Northern Irish groups, giving courts the right to rely on evidence given by a single senior police officer, and to regard an accused person's refusal to answer police questions as an indication of guilt.

## WORLD

in brief

### French interior minister in coma after surgery

PARIS (AP) - French Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement was in a coma yesterday after suffering a heart attack during surgery, officials said. The 59-year-old minister, in charge of the nation's police and security forces, suffered the heart attack during a gall bladder operation on Wednesday. State radio France Info reported Chevènement had a rare allergy to the anesthesia used during the surgery, causing temporary heart failure.

### Clinton could face another independent counsel

WASHINGTON (AP) - US Attorney General Janet Reno is considering whether President Bill Clinton's 1996 campaign tried to evade spending limits by using so-called issue advertisements, legal sources said yesterday. Under the independent counsel law, Reno must decide by early next week if enough information exists to open a 90-day preliminary inquiry that could lead to appointment of a special prosecutor.

The Washington Post reported the president's private attorney, David Kendall, met with Justice Department officials Wednesday in an attempt to convince them no further investigation is warranted. The newspaper said Kendall told the Justice Department that if a formal inquiry moves forward, however, it should be directed at the 1996 campaign organization rather than at Clinton himself.

### Mandela backs military aid to Kabila's Congo

DURBAN, South Africa (Reuters) - South African President Nelson Mandela said regional leaders at a special summit yesterday unanimously backed the military intervention in Laurent Kabila's Congo by Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

In a significant shift from his attempts two weeks ago to negotiate an immediate cease-fire and troop standstill in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he told a news conference he accepted Kabila's right to call for help in the face of a foreign invasion. "It is quite reasonable when the legitimate head of a government of a country says: 'I have been invaded by a foreign force. Come and help me defend my country... for the neighboring country to respond positively,'" Mandela said.

### Hurricane Earl pounds US southeast

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Reuters) - Hurricane Earl raged across the southeastern United States yesterday, generating 128 kph winds, driving rains, and a pounding surf that flooded coastal towns on the Florida panhandle. Earl, the second hurricane to strike the US southeast coast in eight days, pushed a wall of water from the Gulf of Mexico into low-lying barrier islands and villages along Florida's Big Bend before moving inland, dumping rain on four states and spawning tornadoes.

The US Coast Guard said two men were missing after two fishing vessels capsized south of Panama City, near where the hurricane went ashore. Florida Governor Lawton Chiles declared a disaster area across the Gulf coast, ordering state offices in at least 15 counties closed as crews moved into the streets to clean up and restore power to thousands of homes.

### Strong quake shakes northern Japan, 10 hurt

TOKYO (AP) - A strong earthquake shook northern Japan yesterday, slightly injuring at least 10 people. There were no immediate reports of serious casualties or damage. The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 struck at 4:58 p.m. It was centered close to ground level near the rural town of Shizukushi in Iwate Prefecture, roughly 510 kilometers north of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. Several aftershocks later rocked the area, including one with a preliminary magnitude of 4.1, the agency said.

### Japanese dies after having tea; poisoning likely

TOKYO (AP) - A man in central Japan who died after drinking canned tea at home likely was poisoned, adding to the string of poisonings gripping the country, police said yesterday. Also yesterday, a 21-year-old worker at a convenience store in Nagoya was rushed to the hospital after drinking canned apple juice from the store freezer, police said. Her illness was not critical, said a police official. In the other poisoning, Ichijuro Nakazawa, 58, collapsed after drinking the tea at breakfast on Monday. He died at a hospital in Obusecho, prefectural police spokesman Shigehiro Ozaki said.

## Albright reports progress on Kosovo

By ROBERT H. REID

VIENNA (AP) - American diplomacy has produced a good first step toward ending the crisis in Kosovo, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said yesterday. Austria's foreign minister spoke of a "glimmer of hope" for a peaceful solution to violence in the Serbian province.

Albright stopped here on her way home from the US-Russian summit in Moscow for the first bilateral visit to Vienna by a US secretary of state.

She briefed Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima and Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel on the summit and diplomatic efforts in Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians are fighting for independence from Serbia, a part of Yugoslavia.

Albright said that during the US-Russian talks, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was "very much in charge during the meetings and directing the process," but added that Communist members of the Duma are increasing their strength.

On Kosovo, both Albright and the Austrians expressed encouragement over efforts by US special envoy Christopher Hill, who won an agreement in principle this week from Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the main Kosovo Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, for an interim accord granting self-rule to Kosovo's Albanian majority. The accord, which has not yet been made final, falls short of the Albanian demand for full indepen-

dence, but would be reviewed after about three years.

"We see this as a good procedural step forward," Albright told reporters.

"We want to make sure that the violence is ended and that there is action to let the humanitarian workers to be able to get in to deal with the over now 250,000 displaced people."

Albright also said that if force is required, "the nations that agree must be ready to act."

She said Russians and Americans both believe it is critical now for Milosevic to halt the fighting.

Speaking to reporters along with Albright, Schuessel said that "for the first time there is a glimmer of hope" in Kosovo.

But he cautioned: "Don't think that the solution is there. This is a small hope, but it is part of a diplomatic process."

During the Moscow summit, Albright said she and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov had discussed the possibility of sending to Kosovo additional international monitors, "who by their numbers would be able to resist some of the pressures" that Serb security forces have imposed on international aid workers.

But she said she and Primakov did not specifically discuss Moscow's participation in a military "stabilization force" similar to the one enforcing the 1995 Dayton accords that ended the Bosnian War.

## Kohl, Schroeder clash as German election race heats up

By TONY CZUCZKA

BONN (AP) - Gerhard Schroeder, the front runner in Germany's election race, yesterday branded Chancellor Helmut Kohl unfit for the future in one of the sharpest personal attacks on his opponent so far.

Less than a month before the September 27 national vote, the two candidates faced off in parliament in their only direct confrontation before Election Day.

Neither campaigner presented

new ideas, but Kohl, 68, touted his experience as a statesman at a time of global uncertainty, while his younger, slicker rival presented himself as a force for moderate change and a fairer society.

Schroeder, 54, seemed bored as he sat impassively through Kohl's rambling 80-minute speech that focused heavily on his historic achievements, such as German unification.

When he took the floor after Kohl, the Social Democrat hit hard. "That was a speech about the

past," he declared. "You are incapable of handling the future."

Pointing to Germany's 4.1 million jobless, he accused Kohl of breaking his promise to end unemployment when he first took power 16 years ago.

He lashed out at cuts in social and health programs passed by Kohl's center-right coalition, and accused his Christian Democrats of presiding over a widening gap between rich and poor - a gap that Schroeder vowed his Social Democrats would redress.

## Damascus opens trade center in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Syria yesterday opened a trade center in Baghdad, a move seen by officials from the two former foes as a first step toward resuming diplomatic ties severed 18 years ago.

"This is an important step in the bilateral relationship between Iraq and Syria," Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said after opening the center. "This action represents the willingness of the two countries to enlarge bilateral relations and I think this is a good step toward this objective."

Head of Syria's free trade zones

Khalid Raad said the center was "a step that would be followed by more steps."

He said an Iraqi trade center would open soon in Damascus.

Baghdad and Damascus, ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Party, cut their ties because of tension over the 1980-88 Iraqi-Iran war in which Syria backed Iran.

Relations have been improving since last year when both countries agreed to reopen their borders to encourage the flow of Syrian goods under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

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## Ledger of grief

The \$1.25 billion settlement reached last month between Swiss banks and Jewish claimants may begin to close what US State Department negotiator Stuart Eizenstat has called "this lingering ledger of grief."

Closing this ledger does not just depend on the Swiss banks, but on Jewish leaders keeping sight of how this campaign began, and what the appropriate purpose of the court settlement should be.

For years, a handful of people banged at the doors of the Swiss banks, demanding that they investigate their claims regarding bank accounts "lost" during World War II. The first major institutional breakthrough was the mid-1996 formation of the Volker Committee, chaired by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volker, whom the Swiss banks allowed to scour the records of dormant wartime accounts. A few months later, the first suits were filed in US Federal Court, leading to last month's settlement.

Though the amount of the settlement is now set, no one knows how the funds will be distributed or to whom. At the top of the pyramid are people whom the Volker Committee is able to match with specific accounts. These few thousand people will have their funds returned to them, with interest and adjusted for inflation.

Next come a much wider group — in the tens of thousands — who fit in one of the "classes" to be defined by the court.

The settlement funds will likely be distributed equally among each class, each of whom can show some connection to funds in Swiss banks, but not to a specific account.

Up to this point, the principle of restitution is being clearly applied. The scandalous stonewalling by the Swiss banks — hiding behind the very bank secrecy laws that led people to deposit their money there in the first place — will have finally ended.

More problematic, however, are the expectations that have built up among Jewish groups for wider funding to help Nazi victims in general, regardless of any demonstrable connection to Swiss banks.

These expectations began with wildly inflated figures regarding the value of the dormant accounts of Nazi victims, before anyone had been able to check the facts. As the Volker Committee has progressed with its work, these estimates have dropped substantially, but the expectation that organizations — as opposed to individuals — will benefit has persisted.

But US Federal Judge Edward Korman, who

has the final say in the matter, could decide that all the restitution funds, aside from direct expenses associated with their distribution, will go to "certified claimants" — individuals who meet set criteria showing a connection to Swiss bank funds. There is no reason to believe that, after the fund is distributed to claimants, there will be any funds left over, even for the most worthwhile organizations.

It may seem unfortunate that groups such as Amcha, which provides psychological services to survivors and could do valuable work with the neediest Holocaust survivors in Central Europe — people called "double victims" because they suffered first under Nazism and then under communism — are not able to benefit from the restitution money.

But there is no reason why the project of returning bank deposits to their rightful owners should expand into another form of general war reparations. One court settlement cannot settle all the scores of World War II.

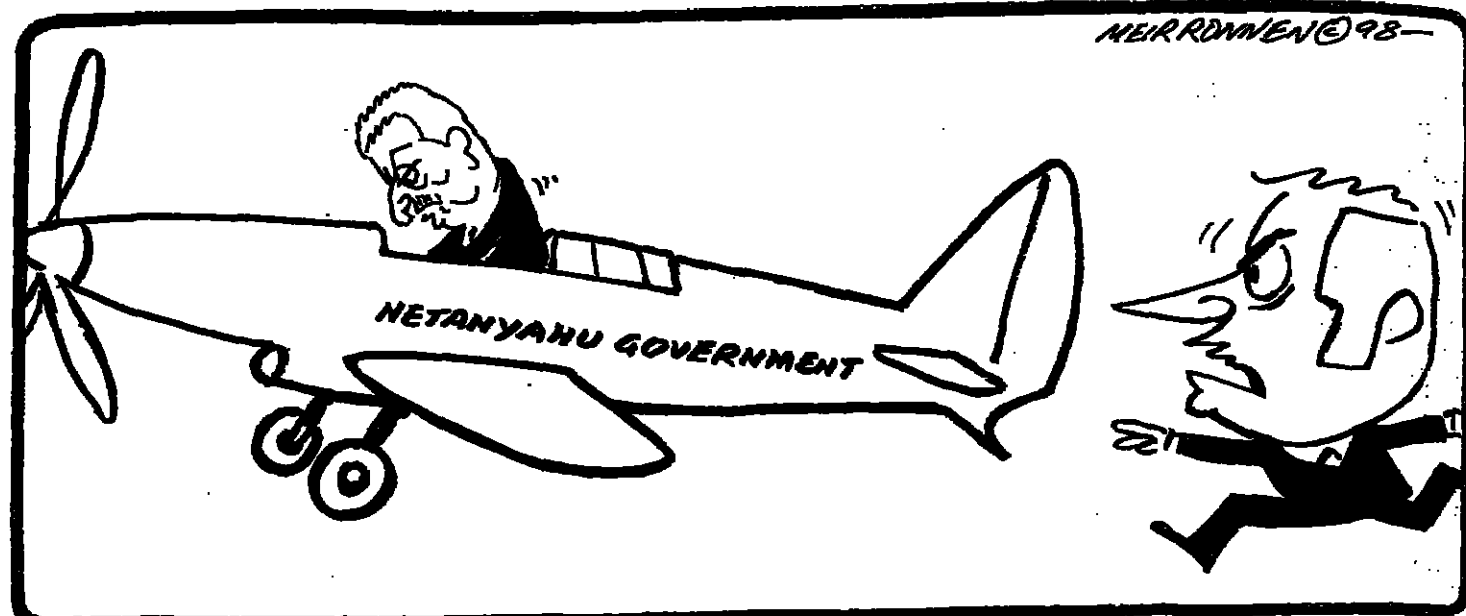
At the same time, the Swiss banks have already made a "goodwill gesture" by allocating Sfr 270 million to a fund for "needy" Nazi victims. This fund, created to provide funds quickly to the dwindling population of survivors, has been available since March 1, 1997, and is not restricted to those with a direct connection to Swiss banks. Yet both in the US and Israel, the distribution of these funds has been problematic, to say the least.

In the US, Jewish organizations have refused to establish a measurable "needs test" for the Swiss humanitarian fund, and the processing of applications has fallen to the New York State Banking Department, rather than to Jewish groups. Another portion of the fund, \$59 million, remains unallocated to Israeli survivors over a year later because of disputes over its distribution.

It is obviously a tremendous shame that, after arguing for the urgent plight of aging Holocaust survivors, Jewish groups have not been able to distribute the humanitarian funds quickly and efficiently to those who need it most.

The ministerial committee appointed on Monday by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, ostensibly to put an end to bureaucratic wrangling over restitution funds, should assure that the Israeli portion of the humanitarian fund be distributed immediately.

It should also recall that the purpose of the Swiss bank settlement is restitution, not reparations, and that there is no reason to try to divert funds from that purpose.



## A year for self-reflection

EHUD BARAK

The month of Elul is upon us: It is the season of *Slichot*, a time for soul-searching.

There is never a dull moment in the annals of the Jewish people. Each year is a new beginning and no year is like the previous one. Each year is noted for a particular event. Each year its own fate. This year should be one of self-reflection. This year we must examine the fate of our national identity.

The building of our nation and the building of our heritage, the wheat fields and the killing fields, sacred friendships and vision which has been blinded, a family to which new life is born, and another which has lost a child, a clenching of teeth, a digging in of nails, the blood and the fire, another piece of land, another grain of independence — all these, and much more, have prevented us from taking a good look at ourselves. They have pushed off the crucial question: And for what purpose?

How loftily we portray the struggle for the revival of the Jewish people is of no consequence, nor does it matter how wonderfully others view it; we will not be able to sense true victory if we do not study the reason for our existence.

After rubbing the dust of revival from our eyes and removing the blood of war from our nails, the picture in its entirety will become clear. As our physical independence becomes clearer, our national identity is revealed — a national identity which is the closest possible reflection of our Jewish heritage.

The most fundamental feeling to which I, as a Jewish leader, repeatedly return is one of heavy

responsibility. I feel that the very essence of each and every link is in being part of a chain. I understand this responsibility on two levels: horizontally, a sense of interpersonal-community identity, and vertically, the sense of identity created by the on-going generations.

building a society capable of living at peace with itself.

AS A JEW and an Israeli I am proud to say Orthodox Judaism, in its amorphous form, is an essential part of our national identity. In an era in which the world has become one small vil-

### The constant tension between the universal spirit and the original Jewish soul is the key to our unique national identity

It is this sense of responsibility which led me to embark on a dialogue with the religious community, unlimited in time, in an effort to draw up a new social order which will redefine the relationships between the various streams within Judaism. In this dialogue, each side is open and attentive to the needs and problems of the other.

This sense of responsibility and my duty as a leader have led me to take this process upon myself. To create a pact which is entrenched in the very soul of the Jewish people and simultaneously believe that we have a place of honor in the future of the family of nations. We have no choice — we must recognize this.

The real achievement of these meetings is in their very existence, but only an on-going dialogue will imbue us with the spirit of the hope for unity. Only concerted efforts at maintaining the dialogue between the various streams will help us succeed in

lage, and distant cultures merge via fiber-optic communications, it is of supreme importance to preserve the original. The constant tension between the universal spirit and the original Jewish soul, sheltering beneath the canopy of the Torah, is the key to our unique national identity.

Judaism has always known how to adapt itself to the spirit of the time and the period. "The words of God live." We must learn to balance authentic Judaism with the changing, dynamic world.

National Jewish identity is not just the choice of good. It is the ability to choose a life which has meaning.

There is no meaning to life without responsibility. The responsibility for tomorrow is as important as the responsibility for today and yesterday. We will not manage to harness the future for our benefit if we forget the past.

Existence for existence's sake

is insufficient. Only the knowledge that by our very tenacity we are serving something greater than our selves is the essence of our being.

This soul-searching, on the eve of the period of *Slichot*, requires that each and every one of us thinks every day of the way in which he promotes the glory of Israel and how he has harmed it. The only way to preserve the eternity of the Jewish people is to remember that we have one destiny and that we must rid ourselves of barriers which lead to alienation. Beyond these barriers lies the unknown, and beyond the unknown lies the enemy — fear.

And so I say to you, with full responsibility, that if we allow fear to conduct the relationships between us, this will be the beginning of rift. If fear of the enemy is based on an element of logic, our fear of each other is certain recipe for self-destruction.

In the *Ethics of the Fathers*, we learn: "Every person in Israel has a portion in the world to come, as it says: 'And Your people are all righteous, they will inherit the earth.'"

If the Jew, with the *streimel*, is unable to hold a conversation with his brother, his own flesh and blood, the soldier with the helmet, if the boy who has turned his back on religion fears his brother, his own kith and kin, the yeshiva student, our existence here is meaningless, has no purpose, and does not even bear a semblance of Jewish revival.

The writer is chairman of the Labor Party.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FIRST-CLASS POLICE

Sir, — I was the recent victim of a violent crime. My husband and family were out of town at the time of the break-in and I was faced with an armed criminal. Although the circumstances were potentially life-threatening, I came out of the situation outwardly unharmed.

I would like to commend the efforts and behavior of the Jerusalem police force at every stage of their response and subsequent investigation of the rape/robbery case.

From the moment I put in the call, they were polite, responsive and caring. The uniformed officers, detectives and captains who came to my home were all highly professional but also markedly compassionate and considerate of

my physical and emotional state. Concerned as to my immediate welfare, they asked if I had a friend I could stay with that night. If not, offered one of the detectives, "You can stay at our house."

When I asked the captain when I could return to my home, he said, "You could even stay here tonight, but I just don't want you to be alone." That level of care and consideration was consistent throughout the case.

During the investigation and pursuit of the perpetrator, their telephone calls to me were always polite and reassuring, each call prefaced by "First of all, how are you feeling?"

Any officer I spoke to made it clear that no matter what, no mat-

ter where, they were available to assist me. This was reinforced by the fact that the detectives gave me their mobile phone numbers in addition to their station numbers.

Ultimately the criminal was caught and incarcerated. When the police captain called to inform me of the news, he added, "Now you and your friends in the area can have the sense of security you deserve."

I know the police have been given bad press and that some people have found them lacking in compassion and consideration, but from my experience I think they are first-class, both personally and professionally.

NAME WITHHELD  
UPON REQUEST

### THE SAME SIDE

Sir, — On the August 14 opinion page of *The Jerusalem Post*, was an interesting juxtaposition: Jonathan Rosenblum, champion of the oppressed Orthodox/haredi community; and next to him, Rabbi Michael Marmur speaking from the dispossessed Reform community.

What I heard in the white space between the two columns was: There is division between Jews, it lies between those who care about Judaism and those who do not. Obviously, these two care! I say they are together on the same side.

YORAM GETZLER,  
Association for Jewish Renewal  
in Israel.

Jerusalem.

### A MAGEN DAVID CAMPAIGN

Sir, — In recent weeks the press and other media have paid much attention to the crosses placed by certain groups in Poland around the death camp of Auschwitz.

In the circumstances, it may not be without interest to note that in many Jewish circles, including Jews who do not believe in Jesus as the messiah but consider him a poor Jew who was crucified like thousands of others by the Romans, the desire is gaining ground to commemorate these victims by placing a Magen David ("Star of David") at the traditional site of Jesus' burial, known as the "Holy Sepulchre."

The initiative, which so far has

had little publicity, may encounter some opposition as well as objective difficulties since all arrangements at the Holy Sepulchre are (unlike the Auschwitz perimeter) subject to strict status quo regulations. It is, nevertheless, hoped that the Israeli government will put its weight behind this proposal.

PROF. R.J. ZWI  
WERBLOWSKY,

Martin Buber Professor  
Emeritus of Comparative  
Religion,  
The Hebrew University.

Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

5 years ago: On September 4, 1993, *The Palestine Post* published a lengthy report by Gershon Agron, the newspaper's founder and first editor, on the recent deliberations of the 18th Zionist Congress which was held in Prague, and in particular on the conflict between the Labor and Revisionist representatives. Agron concluded that Revisionists might

soon find themselves outside the pale of the Zionist movement.

25 years ago: On September 4, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Labor Party Secretariat by 78 votes for, and none against, officially endorsed the Galili Summary of Policy for the Territories for the next four years. The summary allowed pri-

vate individuals and companies to purchase land beyond the "Green Line" in those cases where the State Lands Authority could not. The summary had also explained that as peace was not around the corner, Israel was obliged to improve the people's lot in the area under its control.

Alexander Zvielli

## Russian roulette

MOSHE ZAK

Today everyone offers alternatives: either a dictator will take over the country or Yeltsin will have to resign. In other words no one can guarantee what will be the outcome if Yeltsin dissolves

Russian soldiers can be seen (on American television) digging through the garbage after not being paid for months. In a crisis, they are liable to become the target of desperate actions by the disadvantaged, and also draw

### Current developments in Moscow are liable to influence both of Israel's spheres of interest: the Middle East and the Jews

the Russian parliament.

It's possible that from a long-range American perspective, Prof. Richard Pipes was right to advise the administration to let the Russians solve their crisis on their own. Pipes, who was president Reagan's adviser on the USSR, was right in his assessment that the US didn't need to court the USSR, which was on the point of collapse.

But Israel has to take the short-range perspective: a long drawn-out crisis in Russia, political pandemonium and economic hardship, is liable to damage our interests right now. Not only because we are accustomed to look at "the bear and the Jewish problem," but because the current developments are liable to influence immediately both of Israel's spheres of interest: the Middle East and the Jews.

FIRSTLY, a chaotic administration in a nuclear power is liable to push it toward irresponsible steps with regards to the supply of technology and components for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction to Middle Eastern countries.

Secondly, there are hundreds of Jewish multimillionaires in Moscow today, some of them hyperactive in politics, when

fire toward the Jews without millions.

The great concern over a breakdown in Moscow and sales of non-conventional weapons to countries in the region doesn't date from the devaluation of the ruble and the economic collapse in Russia. Even earlier Israel conducted negotiations with Russia, with diplomatic assistance from the US, against the supply of technology and components for the manufacture of long-range missiles to Iran.

The Russians promised both Israel and the US to stop any aid by Russian companies and scientists. Israel even told the Russians that the Israel Electric Corporation would stop its negotiations with Gazprom on the purchase of Russian natural gas if aid to Iran was not stopped.

Later Moscow announced that it would put on trial Russian companies who breached instructions concerning aid in weapons manufacture. The impression given was that while the Russian government was trying to comply with US and Israeli requests, it was not powerful enough to overcome the companies and the smugglers.

This situation is liable to get worse if the chaos in Russia increases. Hunger for dollars is liable to make many Russians

trade in dangerous weapons with unstable rulers and terrorist organizations. The international conventions to restrict the proliferation of non-conventional weapons presupposed that a great power like Russia would behave in a responsible manner and wouldn't allow dangerous weapons to fall into the hands of unsettled countries.

Chaos in Russia cuts the ground under the feet of the existing world order. This is a source of danger and concern for Israel.

As for the Jewish millionaires, who are liable to be harmed by a violent revolutionary outbreak, experts claim that there is no cause for concern, since among the critics of Yeltsin's associate Boris Yeltsin is another Jew, Boris Nemtsov, who used to be deputy prime minister. Nemtsov has said in a Russian economic journal: "He is the modern Rasputin; he has bewitched Yeltsin, and you know that the czar's Rasputin couldn't be stopped."

But hundreds of Jewish tycoons in Moscow are identified with Yeltsin, and when he falls, as seems imminent, they are liable to be hurt and with them other Jews.

Seventy-five years ago David Ben-Gurion was surprised to find rich Jews under Communist rule. In a report he sent to the executive committee of the Histadrut in 1923, he wrote, "I have no doubt that we can raise a greater sum here [in Russia] than in America."

Since then many administrations have come and gone, and many new multi-millionaires have appeared. Their ability to adjust rapidly to changes of regime is also one of the causes of their riches, which would arouse envy even in normal times. In the present chaos this envy is liable to become a volcanic eruption.

سكنا من الامم



# Why I went on strike

DAVID GRANIEWITZ

Over the past couple of days, it has come to my notice that I must be one of the most hated people in the country. No, I'm not a potential suicide-bomber. Neither am I a cabinet minister nor manager of the Maccabi Tel Aviv football club. I am a teacher.

(I was tempted to qualify that last statement with the adverb "merely," as, judging from remarks that I have been hearing of late and the attitude to teachers in general, this once-proud profession has ceased to command respect from the society it sets out to serve.)

Even worse, I am a teacher on strike, and what's more I have the audacity to do so after a two-month summer break.

So, I expect that it is incumbent

Yet if the educational system is regarded as a way of allowing parents to go to work without the burden of having to look after their offspring and teachers as nothing more than baby-sitters with diplomas, then, at least on this account, my pangs of conscience for striking have been assuaged somewhat.

But what of the teacher's lot? Is it not a happy one? Financially, the job has never been lucrative. I manage, as my wife earns more than I do.

It seems that a teacher's salary is based on the assumption that it will be the secondary one in the family. A colleague and friend of mine whose wife is also a teacher recently retorted as a technical writer, as they simply couldn't get by on their

**What is the alternative? Unmotivated teachers not doing their jobs properly because they don't feel they're appreciated?**

on me to deal with some FAQs (frequently asked questions) about the strike:

1) Why are you striking? For money of course.

2) Why are you striking at the beginning of the school year? Well, striking during the vacation would have been fairly pointless, wouldn't it?

3) What am I supposed to do with my kids? Shouldn't you be asking, "Why are my children losing valuable study time?"

4) Why is all this being done at the last minute? Shouldn't you be asking the Education and Finance ministries that question?

5) Do you agree with the strike? Ah, you've got me there, this one's not so simple to answer.

The strike is the most formidable weapon in the workers' armory, and the withdrawal of labor is regarded as a legitimate action in every civilized country today. However, should teachers be regarded as all other workers? Dealing with children every day, we are responsible not only for their academic progress, but also for their health and well-being. Does this mean that, ethically, we should not have the right to strike?

If this were the issue in question, I would be pleased to deal with it. But from what I hear around me, most parents are concerned with how their own lives rather than their children's are affected by the strike.

As a parent myself, I can't really blame them. At the start of the school year, I am more occupied with the logistics of getting my children to school and how much it's all going to cost me than what they're actually going to do when they get there.

combined salaries.

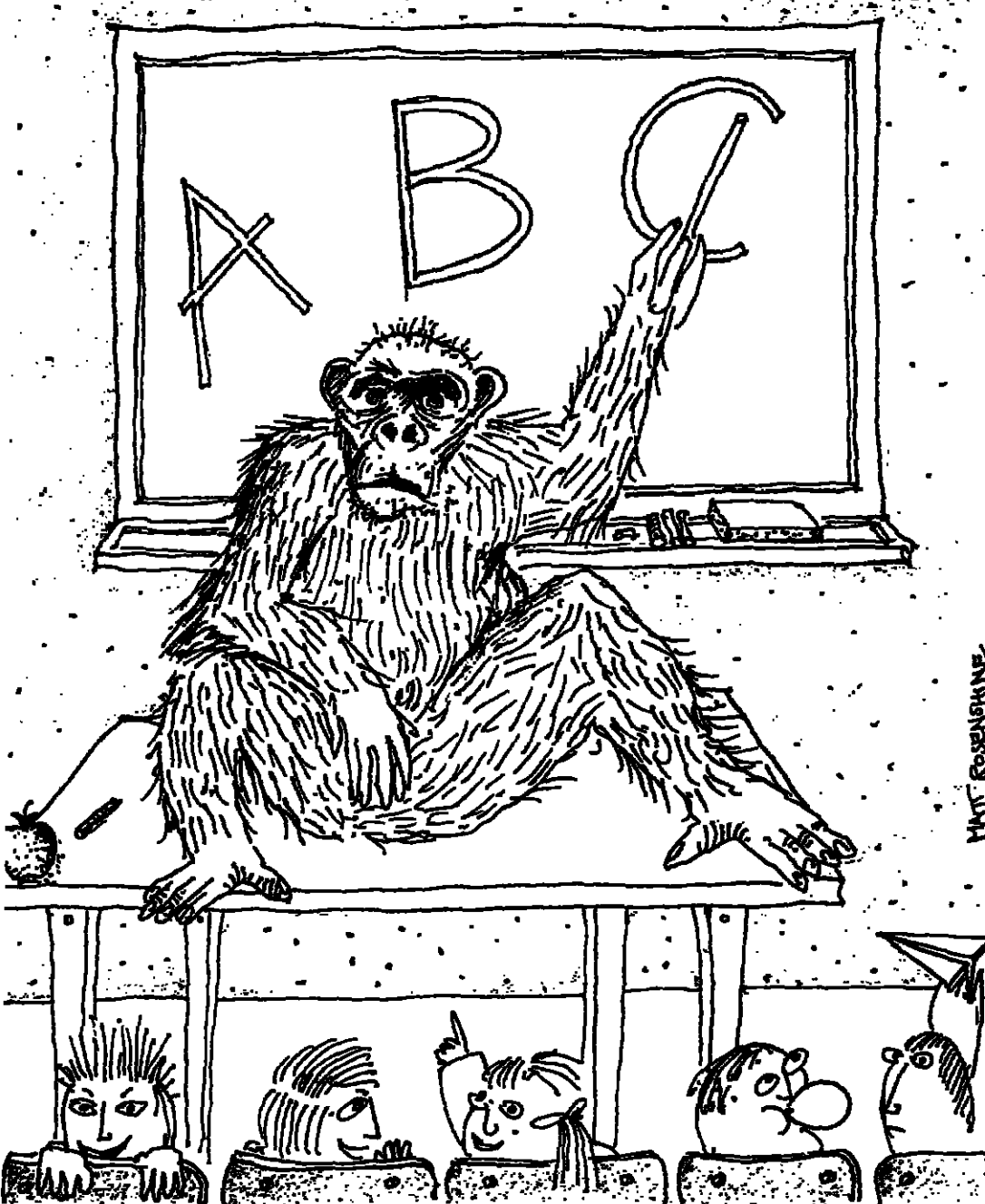
Teachers in general are a naive bunch. This stems from the fact that many start off with high ideals about changing society through education and neglect to ensure that their own rights are being respected.

In addition, a teacher's wage slip is as decipherable as the Rosetta Stone. It consists of numerous factors which make it hard for the teacher to know whether he/she is being paid the correct amount. I, like so many of my colleagues, have discovered only after a while that my paycheck was wrong on several occasions. Getting what I was owed often proved to be a Sisyphean task.

It is for this reason that we have to rely on our union representatives to make sure that we're not being given a raw deal, and we have to trust their decision to strike as a last resort. We have to believe that they are doing it for our own good and not for their own self-aggrandizement.

As for the issues at hand, the idea of proper remuneration for extracurricular activities should not be so far-fetched. Why, for instance, should a teacher going on a four-day school trip have to pay more money for a baby-sitter to help her out during that time than she will get paid herself for doing a job which demands a high degree of responsibility for 24 hours each day?

TEACHERS go on strike with a heavy heart. Each day of the school year lost can never be made up. But what is the alternative? Unmotivated teachers not doing their jobs properly because they



don't feel they're appreciated? Ideals don't pay off mortgages.

People often cite the perks of the job, the long vacations, as justification for the teachers' wage packet. I feel that a complete reorganization of the school year, cutting down on some vacation time, is necessary.

Nevertheless, it must be said that during the school year, a teacher is constantly on the go. We are paid according to the amount of hours that we stand up in front of a class, but our job doesn't end when we exit the school gates. We take our work home with us, not only in the form of preparation and marking.

Teaching is an emotionally taxing occupation. It is impossible to shake off the events of the day when you come home. I find myself constantly going over everything that happened. Just ask a teacher's spouse about home life during term time.

Add to this, parental interference,

the columns in local newspapers to which pupils can contribute often fabricated stories about their teachers to tarnish their reputations, oversized classes, under-sized classrooms, bad scheduling of lessons, the threat of violence and the lack of school equipment, to name but some of the hazards of the job, then the long vacations can perhaps be taken in some type of proportion.

A recent survey reported on the news claimed that around 60 percent of pupils expressed dissatisfaction with the level of their teachers. Who was asked and what questions were put to them - we were not told.

That little snippet of information just brought home to me the feeling that teachers are the cannon fodder of the educational system. We are blamed for all its faults, when in reality we rarely make any important decisions and we are expected to go about our duties with so many factors working against us.

I, for one, would gladly relinquish any pay rise if I could be sure that the money saved would be channeled into education in the right directions; for instance, reducing class size, hiring more teachers, allocating free text books to pupils, and in general easing the financial burden of "free" education. Or even for the chance to have a say, together with my colleagues, in how my schools' budgets are to be spent.

If teachers were consulted, then it might be possible to avoid spending millions on educational projects that turn out to be white elephants. Perhaps in this way, teachers might feel that the true reward for their labors was the feeling that they had done their job well. Until then, I would advise anyone complaining about teachers to remember the old adage: "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

The writer teaches junior high and high school English in Jerusalem.

# Back to school

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Well the children have all returned to school, and for the first time in 18 years, my wife and I are contemplating a home with no babies underfoot or toddlers to be picked up at nursery school.

Not everyone, of course, has been so fortunate. While haredi schools opened across the country last week, after a three-week summer vacation, the scheduled September 1 opening of the public school year did not take place due to a nationwide teachers' strike.

The immunity of the religious sector to this sort of strike is, by now, an old story. Religious hospitals, for instance, are largely unaffected by doctors' and nurses' strikes. The late Klausenberger Rebbe insisted that every employment contract in Netanyahu's Laniado Hospital, which he built, include an explicit undertaking not to strike.

If religious teachers do not strike, it is not because they are all driving Cadillacs, or don't need the money to support their families, or because their working conditions are optimal. In fact, salaries are often late, classes of 35 to 40 students are common, and many classrooms are in trailers or other makeshift accommodations. Typically, there is one day-long school trip a year, as well as a few outings to local parks, for which the teachers are paid nothing extra.

Heder rebbes don't strike for the same reason that religious doctors and nurses don't: the fear that by striking they would be endangering lives. For them, Torah is not another academic subject - it is life itself. A day lost from Torah study cannot be compensated by a day added to the end of the school year. The potential growth of that day is lost forever.

The obligation to teach children Torah is derived from the words in the first paragraph in the *Shema*: "You shall teach [these words] to your son." The unique gift of parents to their children is life, and similarly the transmission of Torah - the gift of spiritual life - is described as one from parent to child.

Religious Jews do not conceive of Torah as a body of knowledge apart from oneself. The true measure of one's Torah learning is not mastery of a technical body of knowledge, but the extent that it transforms those who study it into human beings. Torah learning that does not lead to action and change one as a person is not the real thing.

"between life," and it is unthinkable that it should pass without its own fixed times for Torah learning. Every morning during the summer vacation, the shul across from the street from me was filled with yeshiva students - some of them no older than 10 - learning.

And the same was true in shuls throughout every religious neighborhood. Hundreds of young men could be found in the *Mittler Yeshiva Beit Midrash* in the mornings throughout the vacation, and during Elul one can find the *beit midrash* of the Hebron Yeshiva in Jerusalem filled at 2 a.m. with students learning as if it were the middle of the day.

It's not that these young men know nothing else than learning Torah. During the summer vacation, they could be spotted touring all over the country during the afternoons.

Whenever I run into an old friend from yeshiva, the first question is inevitably "Where are you learning?" not "What are you doing?" If I point out that I'm pushing 50 pretty hard and that there are a lot of mouths to be fed and weddings to be made, the question changes only slightly to "What are you learning?" Failure to answer that question immediately or to be able to discuss the topic with which one is currently struggling is an admission of spiritual death.

The vibrancy of a religious community is measured to a large degree by the extent to which its members set aside regular, daily times for Torah study. In Har Nof alone there must be close to 20 daily *daf yomi* Talmud study groups. The earliest begins at 5:30 a.m., and they continue until late at night.

I don't even know the last names of many of those in the morning Talmud class I've been attending for years, see no one in the group socially, and don't wear the same kind of *yarmulke*. And yet, in some strange way, I feel as close to the members as to almost anyone I know. If someone is missing or has to drop out for any reason, his absence is felt by everybody in the group, and there is a palpable love for our teacher. What binds us is the recognition that for each of us, the hour spent learning together before work is the most important hour of the day.

For those accustomed to academic libraries, the din of a Torah study hall requires a good deal of adjustment. The decibel level of a large *beit midrash* is probably matched only by the trading pit of a major exchange. And in both cases for the same reason: The participants view the stakes as the essence of life. For some - money, for us - Torah.

# On double standards

MARK A. HELLER

The recent American cruise-missile attacks on suspected terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan provoked widespread expressions of outrage in the Moslem world and considerable breast-beating by Western analysts more concerned with how things look than with how they are.

No one, of course, expects that isolated strikes like these will solve the problem of terrorism; the idea that there is some "magic bullet" divorced from politics has long been discredited. But the political consequences of these strikes - automatic Moslem solidarity with the targets and angry denunciations of Western "double standards" - continue to be seen as inevitable and altogether normal.

Indeed, there is a certain sameness to the pattern. Every time a non-Moslem party gets involved in a conflict with a Moslem adversary, it is accused of applying "double standards" based on primordial anti-Moslem prejudice, while those Moslems who rush to the defense of the Moslem party pretend to be acting, not out of primordial solidarity, but rather out of principled commitment to some universal moral norms.

This happened in connection with the American response to Libyan support for terrorism in the 1980s, in connection with the response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and, even more so, to the post-1991 sanctions and inspection regime, in connection with the response to Iran's attempts to develop long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction, and now in connection with the response to terrorist activity based in Afghanistan and Sudan.

In every instance, the explanation for reprisals or containment is "double standards," as if it were impossible for these actions to be grounded in anything other than a clash of civilizations whose major fault-line runs between the Moslems of the world and everybody else. Indeed, the accusations of anti-Moslem double standards are repeated so often and so insistently that the actions of Moslem governments or other political forces are themselves ignored, except in some of those instances (as in 1990) when the victims of the actions are other Moslems.

So in the complaints about the alleged double standard that impos-

es sanctions and intrusive inspections on Iraq but ignores Israel or India, it is of no consequence that Iraq has waged two unprovoked wars of aggression against its neighbors and brutally repressed its domestic dissidents and ethnic minorities. By the same logic, one might equally condemn as a double standard the domestic laws that

**Every time a non-Moslem party gets involved in a conflict with a Moslem adversary, it is accused of applying 'double standards'**

lock up criminals but let everyone else go freely about their business.

Does this mean that there are no double standards? Of course, there are. Does it mean that Moslems are only its victims, but not also its perpetrators? Every time the charge of double standards is raised, one is reminded of the negotiations leading to the breakup of the Indian Empire.

According to Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British viceroy, the Moslems would settle for no outcome other than partition. "We must have Pakistan," said Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Moslem League, because unless the outnumbered Moslems have their own state, they will be swamped in a Hindu sea. But when Mountbatten pointed out that the same principle indicated partition of Kashmir and Bengal to protect outnumbered Hindus there, Jinnah's answer was, "That's different."

SINCE then, Moslem solidarity has led to endless demands for self-determination and independence for Palestinians, support for Kashmiris and Bosnians struggling for their national rights, and defense of Moslem minorities in non-Moslem states ranging from the Philippines to Yugoslavia.

But what about the political disenfranchisement of non-Moslems in Malaysia and the violent scapegoating of the Chinese in Indonesia?

Where were Moslem voices 30 years ago, during the Biafran war for independence against a Nigeria dominated by Moslem northerners? When was the last time that the Arab League criticized Iraq (and not just Saddam), which for over 50 years has used every means, including weapons of mass destruction, to repress the Kurdish struggle for self-determination and independence? And when was the last time it denounced Sudan, the same innocent victim of American aggression, for its genocidal war against Christian and animist blacks who seek nothing more than what are seen as the natural rights of the Palestinians or the Kashmiris or the Bosnians?

There are lots of reasons to question the wisdom or efficacy of the counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation policies followed by the US and other countries. In some cases, these policies may even involve what look like double standards. Strictly speaking, they really are double standards only if different practices are applied in precisely the same circumstances, and the circumstances are never precisely the same; even North Korea's Kim Jong-Il looks like a choirboy compared to Saddam. Nevertheless, they are sometimes similar enough to raise legitimate questions.

But while double standards do exist, they are hardly an American monopoly. Everyone is guilty to some extent: the West, the East, and Israel, too (whose transgressions include applying entirely different "Jewish" and "Arab" systems of law and order in the West Bank and Gaza and denouncing other societies' fundamentalists while coddling its own).

But "everyone" includes Moslems, and it is therefore not a little jarring to hear those who are among the most active practitioners of the double standard, from cheap rabble-rousers to slick spin doctors, whining about being its primary victim.

Finally, while international relations may be a desert of hypocrisy, it is important to point out that there is still at least one oasis of commitment to universal standards, one valiant struggler against the clash of civilizations. That beacon of enlightenment is Libya, which has just awarded the Muammar Gaddafi Prize for Human Rights to Fidel Castro.

# Debunking Nasserism

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Lebanon and other states in the region.

In 1955, the Egyptians acquired advanced weapons from Czechoslovakia (approved, of course, by Moscow), and in 1956, Nasser triumphantly nationalized the Suez Canal, taunting the British and French.

The Egyptian forces were trounced, although Nasser was saved by the political intervention of the Soviet Union, with the acquiescence of US president Dwight Eisenhower.

In 1967, Nasser abruptly evicted the UN buffer troops in the Sinai, deployed his army along the border, and closed the Red Sea to Israeli shipping. His extreme rhetoric and detachment from the implications of his words and military moves led Egypt into another disaster, even more catastrophic than the 1956 war. However, for four decades, the myth of Nasser as a great hero has gone unquestioned in Egypt.

Now, for the first time, Egyptians who read Mahfouz's autobiography or the excerpts in the press will have to consider the view that the nationalization and the Suez war that followed were not Egypt's greatest triumph, but rather "a victory by... media and propaganda."

The novelist tells his readers that on the military side, Egypt was

defeated and on the political side, the long-term loss was even greater, because it put Egypt into direct conflict with the West.

MAHFOUZ has plenty of critics, and the Egyptian press has printed many comments since *Naguib Mahfouz: Pages from His Memoirs* was published a few months ago. However, to their credit, some reviewers and readers also support his analysis and praise him for honesty and bravery.

As Mahfouz noted in an interview, "These were events which we all lived through, and whether they were right or wrong, they are now history from which we should learn."

If, indeed, some Egyptians are willing to consider his words seriously, they could take the lead in changing the stagnant and corrupt economy, and in introducing democracy, allowing Egypt to make up for the lost decades.

This debate also has important implications for present Egyptian policy and for President Hosni Mubarak in particular. Mubarak is far from charismatic, but has ruled Egypt for 17 years.

In many ways, Mubarak's Egypt is mired in many of the after-effects of Nasserism. Vested interests and bureaucratic inertia have blocked substantial change, and the economy and political process

are still controlled by the state.

In its foreign policy, despite the peace treaty, the policy of "cold peace" is unquestioned, and the anti-Western and anti-Israeli chip-on-the-shoulder remains. The Egyptian intellectual and political elite's continuing rejection of contacts with Israelis, and its contribution to hostile and often absurd propaganda, is a throwback to the Nasserist period.

Fearing a loss of status, Cairo's policy makers, many of whom began their careers under Nasser, block improvement in relations with Israel and regional economic cooperation. Egypt, perhaps more than anyone else, has the most to gain through such initiatives, but is again the main victim of its own policies.

In addition, the Mubarak government has pressed the Palestinians, and Yasser Arafat in particular, to take a tough line in negotiations with Israel. In this way, Egypt has demonstrated its power in a negative sense, as at the height of Nasser's era, but has been unable to make a positive contribution to the process.

Perhaps, one day, Egypt will heed Mahfouz's call for democracy and acceptance of mutual co-existence with Israel. The main beneficiaries would be the Egyptians themselves. In the meantime, by triggering this public debate, and questioning the myth of Nasserism, Mahfouz has made an important contribution toward these goals.

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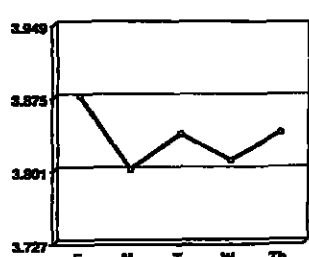
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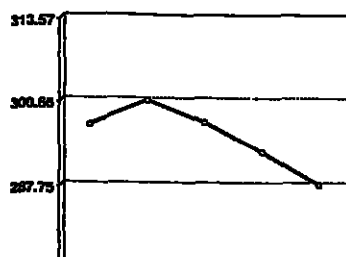
## BUSINESS

in brief

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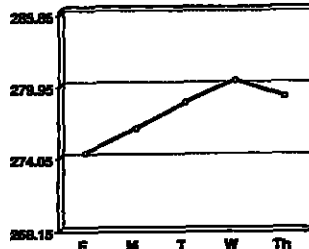


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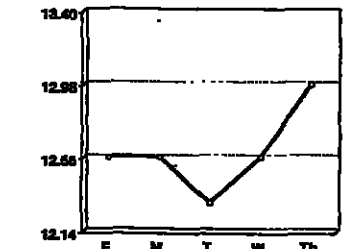
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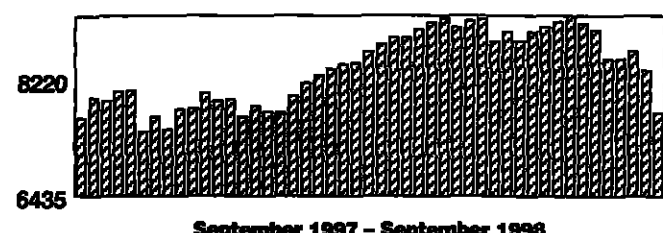


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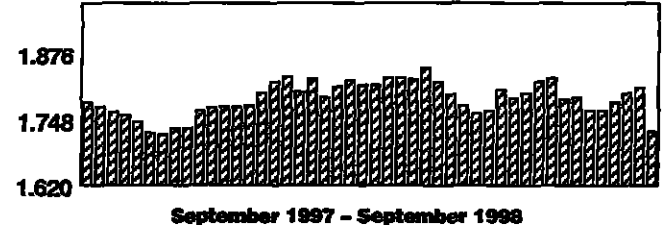
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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### BITS & BYTES

#### First Access raises \$5m.

First Access, a start-up developing hardware and software in the field of user authentication and information security, has raised \$5 million in its second round of financing.

The lead investor was Jerusalem Venture Partners, which was joined by Shamrock, the Disney family's investment company, and the Van Leer Group of the Netherlands.

The Haifa-based company, established last year, unveiled and received a top award for its contactless authentication product at the CeBIT exhibition this year.

#### Tadiran Telecom wins \$10m. contract

Tadiran Telecommunications announced that its subsidiary InnoWave has been chosen by Telecom Argentina to again provide its wireless local loop system for deployment of telecommunications services in rural and suburban networks in central Argentina.

The company said the contract, for supply of its MultiGain Wireless (MGW) System, has a potential value of up to \$10 million and will strengthen InnoWave's position as a long-term provider of WLL solutions and technology in Argentina.

Haim Rosen, CEO of the Petah Tikva-based Tadiran Telecommunications, said the company first established a foothold with Telecom Argentina in 1996 with the installation of 10,000 MGW subscriber lines. "Latin America is characterized by a wide-variety of topographical regions. Laying copper wire telephony and telecommunications infrastructures in rural and suburban areas is extremely difficult," he said.

#### Landau to replace Ya'acobi as IEC chairman

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Israel Electric Corporation board yesterday approved the appointment of Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau as its chairman.

Landau, a close ally of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, will replace Gad Ya'acobi, who was asked by Sharon to step down last month. At the board meeting, Ya'acobi, who was appointed by the Labor government, said that he had to leave the

job four months ahead of schedule.

"I could have refused this request and even sought legal means, as this move contradicts the opinion of legal experts, the law, and the precedents. I know after serving as a minister for 10 years," he said.

One of the major achievements of Ya'acobi was the completion of an international bond sale in the US in which the firm raised \$1.5 billion. He said that the utility will continue to raise money abroad to finance investments of NIS 5b. annually.

## Treasury presents plan for cutting NIS 2.2 billion from budget

By NINA GILBERT

Cutting government support and the implementation of efficiency measures in the areas of defense, education, health, the elderly, and agriculture are the Treasury's main recommendations for achieving NIS 2.2 billion in cuts in the 1999 state budget.

In presenting the proposals yesterday, Finance Minister Director-General Benzion Zilberfarb said the budget is aimed at "supporting growth" in the economy.

"This budget framework must be kept in order to protect the economy and limit the influence of world economic turmoil," he said.

Budget director David Milgrom said the Treasury made cuts of NIS 2.2b. so the government could have NIS 2.3b. to spend on strategic needs and growth-generation projects, in accordance with its decision last month.

The 1999 budget is set at NIS 173.8b. to achieve a budget deficit target of two percent of gross domestic product, with low inflation helping cut government expenditure. Total expenditure, including debt repayment, totals NIS 206.3b.

The Treasury has proposed growth-generating projects worth NIS 500 million, leaving the rest of the NIS 2.3b. to the discretion of the cabinet, which will begin discussing how to spend the budget on Sunday.

"The ministers have extra spending demands of NIS 12b. which they will bring before the cabinet," Milgrom said.

The Treasury's proposal for investment in growth includes NIS 300m. for infrastructure, NIS 50m. for research and development, NIS 50m. for water infrastructure, and NIS 85m. for training workers.

Milgrom said the extra R&D funds are in addition to a NIS 200m. increase in the R&D budget.

He also explained that despite the NIS 400m. cut in non-operational areas, the defense budget would



Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman (left) confers with his director-general, Benzion Zilberfarb, before the Treasury announced its plan for NIS 2.2 billion in budget cuts. (Flash 90)

increase by NIS 500m. in 1999 for strategic needs, based on previous commitments. At the same time, he said talks are continuing with the defense establishment.

The Treasury proposals include:

- A cut of NIS 400m. from Defense Ministry's non-operational activities. This includes freezing building plans; implementing efficiency measures in headquarters; reducing in grants of early retirement; a cut in procurement trips abroad; merging ministry offices in Europe; and reducing activities of the New York mission.

The Treasury also wants the Defense Ministry to force employers to pay for gas masks for foreign workers.

- A NIS 50m. cut for the Education Ministry, mainly from teachers' enrichment courses; efficiency measures; personnel cuts; and merging district offices.

Another NIS 100m. via a cut of 25,000 classroom hours a week.

The Treasury said it found that part of the school hours are not reaching the students and recommended a boost in supervision of use of school hours. Another NIS 20m. cut from boarding schools and NIS 30m. from the support and purchase budget. The Treasury also said the long-school day law costs too much and wants a gradual implementation in selective way.

In the Religious Affairs Ministry, a NIS 32m. cut in support for yeshiva students out of a budget of NIS 1b. a year. In its report, the Treasury also noted that the 130 municipal rabbis salaries cost country NIS 45m., as there are two rabbis in every city of over 6,000 people. Each city rabbi costs NIS 350,000 a year. The aim is to cut NIS 12m. by not automatically having two rabbis in each city. The Treasury also called for efficiency measures in religious councils, noting that each of 50 deputy religious

council head gets NIS 34,000 a month.

In the Interior Ministry, a cut of NIS 100m. from local authorities to be offset by raising tax collection.

In the National Insurance Institute, a cut of NIS 50m. in annual budget for helping the elderly receive personal care, since the number of people entitled to these funds is increasing by 10 percent a year. This is addition to a NIS 20m. cut in the administration budget. The Treasury also recommends linking support payments to inflation only once a year.

For the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, the Treasury calls for legislation to cut NIS 10m. from work accident prevention activities, in addition to a NIS 30m. cut covered by increasing efficiency.

For resolving the crisis in the health system, a cut of NIS 200m. in 1997 terms, by reducing purchases of pharmaceuticals by health

funds and hospitals. The Treasury also wants to close clinics in small communities.

Increasing rates for use of fresh water by agriculture by 8% a year, for the next three years, and reducing water subsidies. "The prices farmers are paying are unrealistic compared with what is being paid by the public and industrial sectors, leading to waste in the use of fresh water," the Treasury said. Another proposal is a NIS 30m. cut in water subsidy for farmers for 1999, NIS 25m. in 2000, and NIS 20m. 2001.

In the Industry and Trade Ministry, a cut of NIS 80m. from the aid budget of NIS 3.4b. In other activities, it proposes to cut NIS 31m., mostly from the Small Business Authority, commercial offices abroad, and district offices. The Treasury also calls for the firing of 74 employees.

In the Foreign Ministry, a NIS 20m. cut, mainly from reducing activities in international cooperation and increasing efficiency.

Savings of NIS 17.5m. in the Agriculture Ministry by firing 120 workers and a NIS 30m. cut in aid for agricultural production, including debt arrangements.

At the Finance Ministry, a cut of NIS 8m. via efficiency measures and closing down the Government Printing Office and giving the work to the private sector.

For the Prime Minister's Office, a cut of NIS 3m., mostly from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

At the Internal Security Ministry, a cut of NIS 68m., via reducing administrative workers in police headquarters and the Prisons Authority, and a postponement of building plans.

In the Justice Ministry, a cut of NIS 20m. via reducing personnel and mail expenses.

A cut of NIS 30m. from the Transport Ministry's subsidy budget, which it said is unnecessary since the government is opening public transport to competition, thus reducing prices.

#### Bezeq in partnership to supply DBS

By JUDY SIEGEL

A committee of Bezeq's board of directors yesterday approved management's decision to go into a partnership supplying digital broadcasting by satellite services.

The partnership will include Gilat-Eurocom, Lidan and Bank Hapoalim, with 37.5 percent of the capital coming from Bezeq. The agreement has yet to be okayed by the entire board.

Because of the opening of telecommunications infrastructure to competition in January 1999, Bezeq is due to lose its

monopoly in a major field and needs to look for other opportunities: DBS - the supply of multi-channel digital broadcasting to people anywhere in the country, without cables - is one such opportunity, Bezeq said.

DBS can be used to provide Internet service in addition to TV. Gilat is one of the country's leading satellite services company, while Eurocom Communications is an expert in marketing of communications equipment.

Lidan specializes in content accessibility and the bank is a financial leader.

#### Gilat, Tadiran Scopus win \$15m. contract in Ethiopia

By NINA GILBERT

Gilat Satellite Networks and Tadiran Scopus have won a \$15 million contract to install a satellite system for Ethiopian television as part of project to provide services in remote areas.

Ethiopian television, which currently only has one channel, is installing the system as a basis for expanding the number of television channels available in the country.

The expansion is to be based on deploying satellite capabilities throughout the country. Under the contract, Tadiran Scopus, is to supply a digital video compression system for the broadcast of movies and sporting events.

The contract is Tadiran Scopus's first in Sub-Saharan Africa and is worth \$600,000 for the Holon-based company.

Gilat Satellite Networks, based in Petah Tikva, makes small aperture terminal satellite earth stations.

Tadiran Scopus is a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd., the country's largest electronics company.

It is a maker of digital video broadcasting products.

#### Delek negotiates sale of Amisragas

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Delek, the Israel Oil Corp., yesterday said it is conducting negotiations on the sale of its 40 percent stake in gas supplier Amisragas to foreign investors.

Amisragas, the American-Israeli Gas Corporation, is jointly held by Delek and the company's founders, the US-based Paradis family. In the past it had been reported that Delek was holding talks with the Paradis family, and it can therefore be assumed a deal between the two parties will soon be announced.

Sources close to the deal said that it is expected to be completed based on a price valuing the company at tens of millions of dollars.

The deal is line with the need of Delek's main shareholder, Yitzhak Tshuva, to raise cash by selling subsidiaries, as he has to repay loans taken for the completion of the Delek deal.

Earlier this year Tshuva, who is a Netanyahu-based contractor, completed the purchasing of a controlling stake in Delek, Israel's second largest petroleum company, for NIS 1.35 billion, which was mainly financed by a loan taken from Bank Hapoalim.

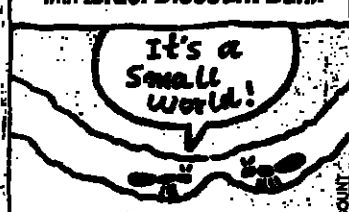
Tshuva said several months ago that he used less than \$200m. in

bank credit which will be financed over 15 years but it is widely believed that he needs cash to repay his debt.

As part of his efforts to raise cash, Tshuva is also trying to sell Delek's holdings in the Gadot Group.

Tshuva also announced last month that he intends to join investors Shlomo Eliahu, David Lubinsky, Yeshayahu Landau and Bernard Schereir in a bid to purchase a control in Israel Discount Bank.

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# License to kill

The PA's quickie trial and execution this week of two killers – the first execution since it took control in Gaza in 1994 – has evoked debate about the nature of crime and punishment in Palestinian society, **Lamia Lahoud writes**

Even a day after the traditional three-day mourning period was over, the Khalidi house in the Gaza refugee camp of Deir el-Balah was still abuzz with friends, relatives and other sympathetic Gazans coming to offer their condolences for the murder of Majdi and Mohammed.

A large sign draped over the mourning tent said: "Yasser Arafat means justice." More than 30,000 people had turned out for the funeral.

"I never imagined that this case would stir so much solidarity," said Bassem Khalidi, the victims' older brother. "In Arab tradition a man is not supposed to cry – but so many did at the funeral." He fought back his own tears.

Further north in Gaza, in Jabalya refugee camp, the Abu Sultan family, whose two sons were executed for slaying the Khalidis, conducted their own mourning rituals farther away from public view, behind a closed iron gate. Family members declined to give interviews.

Mohammed Abu Sultan, 25, and Raed Abu Sultan, 24, both members of the Palestinian Authority's police force, were the first Palestinians to be executed by the authority since the start of its rule in Gaza in 1994. Their heads hooded in black, they were shot by a firing squad on Sunday.

Many Gazans supported the executions; only a handful of intellectuals and human rights activists criticized the lightning trial and speedy implementation of the death penalty.

But the murders and subsequent executions have stirred debate over burgeoning crime and the question of capital punishment in Palestinian society.

WHILE there is an article in the Palestinian Basic Laws opposing executions, most Palestinians, including legislative council members, seem to favor the death penalty as punishment for murder. The Basic Laws, passed by the

Palestinian Legislative Council, have not yet been implemented. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a founding PLO member from Gaza, opposes the death penalty. Yet he said he understood the enthusiastic reaction of so many Palestinians to the executions. It stemmed, he said, from their insecurity over the status of law enforcement in Palestinian areas.

The Palestinians, Abdel-Shafi said, have the feeling that nobody is in control, and therefore anyone can use his weapon to settle a dispute.

Abdel-Shafi, a leading critic of the PA in Gaza, also blamed the authority for the fact that so many people in Gaza are armed.

**A human-rights activist saw the executions as part of Arafat's attempt to stem the ever-growing murder rate among the Palestinians**

He said he hoped the slaying of the Khalidis had finally brought home to the PA that it needs to institute some real measures to effect gun control. In this context, he regarded the PA ruling that security personnel may carry their weapons only while on duty as a step in the right direction.

Bassem Eid, a Palestinian human-rights activist who strongly condemned the executions, acknowledged that Arafat felt intense pressure both in the Palestinian street and from the Fatah movement to punish the murderers.

Eid reasoned that the executions were part of Arafat's attempt to rein in the ever-growing murder rate among Palestinians. He was determined to show that he would not tolerate murder as a way to settle disputes.

THE Khalidis had delayed opening a mourning tent until after the executions – a signal in Palestinian society that they were seeking revenge. Now the hope is that the execution of the Abu Sultans will prevent a spiral of revenge killings.

Bassem Khalidi explained that the family had been waiting to see whether the PA would punish the killers; now that the death sentences had been carried out, he seemed to indicate that the Khalidis had agreed to lay the matter to rest.

He accused activists who opposed the executions of "ignoring the will of the Palestinian people." He maintained that legislation in a democracy should represent the will of the majority and that the Palestinians have clearly opted in favor of punishing murderers via the death penalty.

The Palestinians, Khalidi pointed out, are an Islamic society, adding that putting murderers to death corresponds with Islamic values and laws. In the case of the Abu Sultan brothers, he noted, the PA was only implementing Egyptian laws, which are in force in Gaza, since the Palestinians do not yet have their own laws or constitution.

MAJDI Khalidi, who was 32, had been a leader of the pro-Arafat Fatah movement in Deir el-Balah and had worked for the PA's Intelligence Service. His slain brother Mohammed was 30.

PA security officers believe they were shot as the result of a dispute between Fares Abu Sultan and Majdi Khalidi dating back to a time when they both worked for PA Intelligence.

Abu Sultan was supposedly dismissed from the intelligence



Khalidis support a weakened relative as they leave a Palestinian Police facility after witnessing the execution of the men who killed two members of their family. (Ahmed Jadaiah)

service and went to work for the PA's Department of Political Education.

Bassem Khalidi, who witnessed the slaying of his brothers, said they were gunned down about a week ago in front of their cousin's house in Nusseirat, south of Gaza City.

He said the shootings followed an argument between their cousin Nabil Khalidi and Fares Abu Sultan, who live across the street from each other. Fares allegedly made provocative gestures at Nabil, who was on his balcony.

Fares called his brothers, who came and threatened Nabil with their weapons. Nabil called his cousins Bassem, Majdi and Mohammed, who arrived unarmed to try to calm tempers.

When they arrived, the Abu Sultan brothers were nowhere in sight, Khalidi recalls. Since Fares used to work for the intelligence service, Majdi called intelligence headquarters for help.

"When they got to the scene they told us that they couldn't arrest Fares because he no longer worked for them. They referred the case to the police," Khalidi recalled.

Then, while they were arguing about who should arrest Fares, the Abu Sultan brothers returned and shot Mohammed



Armed Palestinian Police close the prison gate prior to the execution. (Ahmed Jadaiah)

and Majdi," he said.

Most of the Abu Sultan men were taken into police custody for their own protection but have gradually been released since the Khalidis' indication that they would not seek further retribution.

Although Khalidi expressed disappointment over the fact that not all the five Abu Sultan men accused of participating in the slaying of his brothers were executed, he said he would accept the PA's conclusions. The other four were given life sentences.

Arafat has so far resisted calls by Fatah members and other Gazans to execute Fares, whom they accuse of being behind the murders.

The word on the street is that Fares was a collaborator and had an Israeli ID. PA security officers dismissed this as rumor and said that only those who pulled the triggers should be executed.

"Besides, two Khalidis were murdered and two Abu Sultans were executed," one security

**The Palestinians feel that nobody is in control, and therefore anyone can use his weapon to settle a dispute**

— Haidar Abdel-Shafi

officer said. "That's only fair and should settle the matter." A PA security official in Gaza warned that the perpetrator of

any revenge killing would also be put to death. He added, however, that this was no guarantee that other "honor" killings would not occur.

Abdel-Shafi explained that honor killings were so deeply rooted in Palestinian society that one could hardly expect them to disappear overnight; the only way the problem could be solved, he said, was by starting the democratic process in Palestinian society.

Referring to the quickie trial of the Abu Sultan brothers by the PA security court – set up on the Egyptian model by Arafat to mete out justice to terrorists, under pressure from the international community – Abdel-Shafi stressed that the PA had little respect for law and legal procedure.

That was the reason, he believed, why Palestinian society as a whole exhibited the same lack of respect.

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סוכן מן האהל



# Taking the law out of violators' hands

This week the police set up a temporary unit to investigate rising Jewish violence in Hebron. Herb Keilon looks at whether the unit is a force to be reckoned with, or just a public-relations play

It is called the City of the Patriarchs, but Hebron could also justifiably be called the City of Unending Incidents. Day-to-day life in this town beats to a harsh rhythm all its own; a cacophony made up of the incessant sound of rocks thrown, petrol bombs hurled, curses exchanged, gunshots fired and long knives angrily unsheathed. So numerous are the incidents in Hebron that most have long ceased to interest the public. Petrol bombs lobbed at the Beit Hadassah or Avraham Avinu Jewish compounds are no longer automatically defined as "news." Vigilante raids by Jews smashing car windows are no longer received by the public with that much shock. It is all just considered the "normal" state of affairs in Hebron, something we have come to expect. "Things are crazy in southern Lebanon," the mind compartmentalizes, "things are crazy in Hebron." Until something really big happens that demands our attention. Like the stabbing of yeshiva student Erez Shmuel in 1993; like the massacre of 29 Palestinians at the Machpela Cave in 1994; like the murder of Yehuda Hoss and Nahum Partosh in 1995; and like the random firing on the casbah by Noam Friedman in 1997. The murder of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anani while asleep in his home in Tel Rumeida last month was another such incident. The murder triggered a furious reaction from the city's Jews, including a violent and destructive rampage in the city's market, and a shrill tongue-lashing of President Ezer Weizman by former Kach leader Baruch Marzel. Soon afterwards, there was increased media discussion of threats by the extreme right on the lives of Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. A special inter-ministerial committee on Jerusalem convened to hear the police warn of extremists possibly plotting to attack the Dome of the Rock in order to precipitate a crisis that would doom the Oslo process. Something had to be done, or so it seemed, to curb the extreme right. Especially in light of the Rabin assassination. Especially in light of the ugly scenes on television from Hebron. Especially in Hebron. So the police established a temporary division in its Shai (Judea and Samaria) District to deal with an accumulated backlog of files against violators of the law in Hebron. Shai spokesman Ofer Sivan said that the division, to be made up of eight people, will investigate cases of violence in Hebron involving both Jews and Palestinians. But Hebron settlement leaders have no doubt that the measure is aimed at them. Sivan said that the unit will investigate cases of violence so that the perpetrators can be indicted. "It is difficult to express my feeling, because this is happening even as the police fail to deal with Arab lawlessness," said Hebron spokesman Noam Arnon. "You saw the Arabs on television throwing rocks and petrol bombs in Hebron, trying to kill people. The police did not deal with them at all. They did not take their pictures, are not running after them. The police are only going after the victims, using an iron fist against us."

**"This campaign rests on four pillars: The GSS, the police, the state attorney's office, and the media. They are all preparing the victim for his role"**

— Hebron settlers' spokesman Noam Arnon

trouble keeping up with the usual workload, Sivan added. Arnon doesn't accept the explanation. He views the establishment of the unit, as well as reports of threats on the lives of public officials, as part and parcel of a plot to delegitimize Hebron settlers. "After the Oslo Accords, they knew there would be a danger to settlers, so they set out to delegitimize us," he said. "That way if there were attacks here, they would pass quietly because they are 'only' attacks on settlers. They sent Avishai Raviv down here to delegitimize and demonize us. The same thing is going on now. They know that there are going to be more casualties as a result of the next withdrawal, so they are delegitimizing us all over again," he said. It was clear, before Netanyahu's election two years ago, that the "they" in Arnon's equation were the architects of Oslo, the Labor government. But now who does he mean by "they"? "This campaign rests on four pillars," Arnon said, "the General Security Services, the police, the state attorney's office, and the media. They are all preparing the victim for his role." Arnon said he would not be surprised if the GSS had planted another Raviv-type agent provocateur in the Hebron/Kiryat Arba area, to besmirch the settlements. David Wilder, a father of seven who moved into Hebron from Kiryat Arba this week as his answer to the Ra'anani murder, characterized the establishment of the new police unit, as well as



An Israeli police officer shields a Palestinian as he walks past angry Jewish settlers in Hebron.

of itself is that of a Jewish court. I am saying this in general terms, but there have been a number of studies recently showing that our courts see themselves not as the courts of the state, but of the Jews in the state." Negbi said this approach is obviously not held by all the judges, but that there are "certain elements in the system who see the settlements as part of the Zionist enterprise. It is a little like the way the courts in America had difficulty doing justice to the Indians, when the white man settled Indian lands in America." According to Negbi, this conception of the court is held by certain people at various levels in the legal system. He said that if past experience is any indication, the police investigative unit in Hebron will likely have little success.

Going back to the Karp Report in 1982, which called for a more aggressive policy toward the lawlessness of some settlers, Negbi said that whenever there have been attempts to aggressively enforce the law among settlers, pressure from the settler movement and its supporters has effectively forced the authorities to retreat. The decision this week by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to soften the language of regulations with regard to law and order in Judea and Samaria, regulations drawn up by previous attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, is an example of this tendency to retreat, he said.

And a court decision earlier in the week to rule against the police and release from detention Batya Leibowitz, and Noam Federman, suspected of involvement in disturbances in Hebron that followed the Ra'anani murder, is the most recent example of a legal system that is very forgiving to Jewish lawbreakers in the territories, Negbi said.

Another example he cited is the scheduled release on good behavior Sunday of Yisrael Lederman, sentenced in April 1997 to three years in prison for throwing boiling tea at Labor MK Yael Dayan during a visit to Hebron.

Tatiana Susskin, who was sentenced to two years in prison for putting up posters in Hebron last year depicting Mohammed as a pig, is also scheduled for release on Sunday.

Ehud Sprinzak, a Hebrew University political science professor who specializes in extremist groups, agrees with Negbi's criticism that the court has not aggressively dealt with lawbreakers over the last 20 years. But, he said, the problem is not only the courts. Sprinzak said the state attorney's office has been notoriously weak in prosecuting lawbreakers in the settlements. "The state attorney never established the tools necessary to deal with the lawlessness by settlers. And there was never a government determined enough to lead the way. The settlers have a serious lobby. And even under the Labor government, they knew

how to work through the different channels," he said. Sprinzak said Netanyahu is clearly not responsible for the state attorney's weakness on this issue, but that in the current legal configuration, the state attorney's

Hebron will have either the teeth or the backing to crack down, he said. But one thing that is clear, he said, is that the current increase in concern about what the extreme Right may do, a concern

**"A number of recent studies show that our courts see themselves not as the courts of the state, but of the Jews in the state"**

— Legal commentator Moshe Negbi

office is "clearly weaker now." "Remember that the justice minister is Tzahi Hanegbi. Geula Cohen's son, who sat on top of the towers in Yamit to fight the withdrawal from Sinai," Sprinzak said. It remains to be seen whether the strengthening of the police in

that likely led the police to send the investigators to Hebron, is due in part to the work of spin-meisters from among both Kach elements and the GSS.

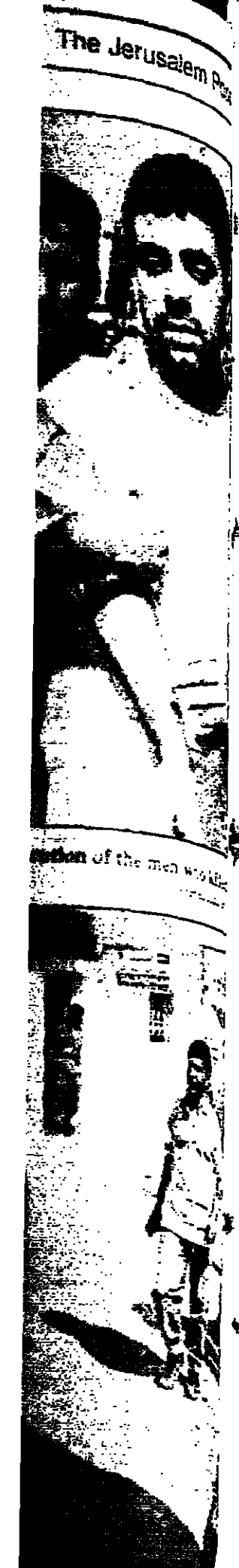
"There is a lot of spin control going on here," Sprinzak said. "It starts with the Kahane-types and

extremists who call journalists day and night on beepers with announcements, warnings and threats." The interests of these groups is to show that if a withdrawal takes place, all hell will break loose.

In addition, Sprinzak said, the GSS also has an interest in giving reality a certain "spin." "The GSS, following the Rabin assassination, is very afraid and insecure," Sprinzak said. "I don't think there is a danger today to the prime minister, and I am doubtful about provocations on the Temple Mount. But the media is full of this."

The need of the GSS to "cover themselves" if something does happen, Sprinzak says, is partly responsible for helping create this atmosphere.


"Those hurt by all this are the vast majority of the settlers who are pragmatic, but find themselves in the eye of the storm," Sprinzak said.



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## MINISTER OF HEALTH'S SHIELDS FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

As part of the Ministry's program celebrating the jubilee of the State, this year for the first time, the Minister will award shields to outstanding volunteers, working in Min. of Health frameworks. The shields will be awarded by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, at a gala ceremony, to be held in Jerusalem.

*The shields will be awarded to Israeli citizens - adults and youth, individuals, groups and voluntary organizations - whose activities have contributed to the health and welfare of the public.*

Nomination forms are available at the offices of the Israel National Volunteers Council, 108 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv 67012, Tel. 03-561 4144, Fax. 03-561 3343. Nominations must be submitted by Thursday, October 1, 1998.



### Ministry of Health

Public Health Services    Spokesperson's Bureau

#### IMMUNIZATIONS IN ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS DURING THE 1998/9 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform parents that during the 1998/9 school year, pupils in elementary and junior high schools will be immunized according to the following program:

- 1st graders - Immunization against measles, rubella (German measles), mumps, polio
- 3rd graders - Immunization against diphtheria, tetanus
- 5th graders - Immunization against rubella (girls and boys)
- 7th graders - Skin test for tuberculosis
- All grades - Completion of missing immunization, such as measles, polio, diphtheria, tetanus

Parents requesting that their children not be immunized must inform the school principal in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice.

To parents of 1st grade children: If there is an individual in the family or in the household suffering from immune system disorders (due to disease or chemotherapy), the school nurse MUST be informed, so as to determine the type of immunizations to be given to the child.

In the event that additional immunizations will be given during the school year, a separate announcement will be published.



### ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

#### Change to Winter Time

#### Jordan Border Crossing Points

At midnight on Saturday, September 5, clocks in Israel change from summer to winter time. At all crossing points on Israel's borders with Jordan, on both the Israeli and Jordanian sides, clocks will be set according to Israeli time.

Spokesman's Bureau



# One trip too far

Two young Israeli women go on trial in Japan this month for smuggling drugs into that country during a Far East adventure that ended in tragedy. Michael S. Arnold spoke to their shaken families

The nightmare began with a simple everyday occurrence — a telephone ringing in Ronen's home on the northern coast. It was late July. A Foreign Ministry official was on the line.

"It was like the world fell on my head," Ronen says. "He told me: 'Your daughter is in prison in Japan for importation of drugs.'"

"I said — it's not true, someone stole her passport."

The news was true. Dorit, 24, had been stopped at Tokyo airport for bringing five kilograms of hashish from India hidden inside picture frames. Twelve hours later, Nava, 22, would be charged for bringing the same quantity of drugs, in the same manner, from the same dealer. The names of the women and their parents, and some details, have been changed in this story.

Within 24 hours Ronen, a top executive with a prominent Israeli company, and Sara, Nava's mother, were on a plane to Tokyo, where they would spend the next month consoling their daughters and trying to prepare their legal defense. The women's first court hearings are at the end of September.

"I cannot work, I cannot concentrate," Sara says. "I still have moments when I find it hard to believe this is happening." Both parents keep repeating that these are good girls, from good homes.

Things like this are not supposed to happen to them. But like so many of the Israelis who flock to Asia each year, Dorit and Nava were swept up in the euphoria of freedom and license so attractive to young people who have just finished several years in army uniform.

EACH year, some 30,000 young Israelis travel to India and the Far East, a place where the norms and pressures of daily life and a career track, the restraints of family and society do not seem to apply.

Israeli backpackers follow well-established routes through India, Nepal and Thailand, often turning to their countrymen to ask about

the cheapest accommodations, bus or train schedules, the price to pay for a taxi to avoid being a "freier." Tragedy is not unheard of on these trips; during the last month, for example, three Israelis were killed when their vehicles fell off winding mountain roads. Ronen had steered himself for this type of catastrophe.

The possibility of drug use did not even occur to him, he says. Yet according to Shamai Golan, spokesman for the Authority for the War on Drugs, drug use among Israeli backpackers is rampant; many experiment with drugs ranging from marijuana and hashish to psychedelic mushrooms and LSD. The atmosphere is free, easy and encouraging; the drugs are prevalent, high-quality and exceptionally cheap. Most users do not suffer long-term effects, but every year up to 900 Israelis returning from overseas need some form of psychiatric care because of drug use, Golan says.

A few get mixed up in transporting drugs. One well-known system is for dealers to seek out young, single, attractive women — who are impressionable and unlikely to attract police attention — to serve as couriers.

According to Nissim Ben-Sheetrit, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry's administration division — who this week announced the formation of a special unit to deal with Israeli travelers in distress — some 300 Israelis are in jail around the world, many on drug-related charges.

"Some transport drugs out of naivete, a lack of awareness, under the influence of drugs or because they fell in love with someone who convinced them to carry them," Golan says. "Usually it's a mixture of the drug atmosphere and innocence."

Many of these factors appear to have influenced Dorit and Nava. The girls, who did not know one another in Israel, met briefly at various points on the India circuit.

After several months on the road each arrived this summer in Manali, a town in the northwestern state of Himachal Pradesh in

the foothills of the Himalayas. Manali is famous for several things. Among them are its breathtaking mountain views, fresh air and brilliant clean rivers.

Another is its cannabis crop, which makes it India's center of marijuana and hashish production. Cannabis plants grow freely in the mountain valleys; now, in September and October, locals pressed into service for the harvest walk through the fields scraping a resin from leaves of the meters-high plants and rolling it into patties between their palms.

The paste, known as "charas," is similar to hashish and looks more than a bit like dark Passover charoset. It is this preparation that Dorit and Nava carried to Japan, according to Yishai (not his real name), a 22-year-old Israeli man who parted with Nava in Manali and now is helping Sara reconstruct her daughter's last days in India.

Prized in Japan, where a gram sells for anywhere from \$50 to \$80, the drug can be had in India for as little as NIS 2 per gram, Yishai said.

This profit margin, apparently, motivates a young Israeli drug dealer who, according to Yishai, has operated in India for the past four years.

When Dorit and Nava arrived in Manali, the dealer homed in on them. They were his type of target — young, attractive, naive, alone. Neither woman had had much experience with drugs before her trip; in Asia they began smoking frequently because of the party atmosphere and peer pressure.

The dealer invited Dorit and Nava to join his "family," a group of hangers-on with whom he traveled through the region. Both Dorit and Nava spent a week to 10 days traveling with the dealer and his "family" through the breathtakingly beautiful towns that dot the Kullu Valley around Manali.

In a letter, Dorit writes of the "special loving happy atmosphere" of the dealer's group, adding, "they talked all the time about hash — how it's good for the body and the mind, they smoked



MAUREEN FAIN

really a lot and I, under their pressure, started to smoke more than ever, became more and more dizzy or — happy.... — now I understand that I became really confused in my mind."

At the end of this period, the Israeli dealer convinced each girl to carry the drugs to Japan, telling them that if caught, they would merely be deported. He gave each one a plane ticket and three pictures whose frames were filled with the drug, to be delivered to a contact in Japan.

THE motives of the women were obscure; they did not even expect to make big money. Ronen and Sara say their daughters were promised about \$2,000 each for taking the risk of their lives.

Perhaps it was the adventure and the thrill of the operation; more likely, Ronen and Sara say, the girls' judgment was so impaired from drug use that they had lost the ability to distinguish clearly between right and wrong. Dorit also wrote of her reluctance to disappoint her new-found friends by backing out of the deal once she had agreed to carry the drugs.

The dealer's promises proved worthless. An X-ray at customs exposed Dorit's burden; she was placed in a cell at the airport police station.

Twelve hours later, Nava

stepped off her flight from Delhi straight into the arms of the police.

Ronen and Sara do not deny that their daughters committed a crime, yet they say that the girls, in fact, are victims.

"These are good, honest girls who got manipulated by bad criminals," Ronen says. "The police realize this is an accident that happened to good people. But for me it's a big question whether the court will see the human side of it."

cooperating fully with police. Their futures in Israel, a small country where news and gossip travel fast, probably are severely compromised.

Both girls may need psychological treatment because of the affair, their parents say. "These girls feel they've disappointed their families, their friends, their teachers," Sara says.

Nava "has lost her confidence, her beliefs in herself, part of her

Israelis about the danger of drug use. The parents also have prepared reports on their daughters' tragedy. They are distributed at travel outlets catering to Israeli backpackers.

But Israeli youth are much more likely to heed the advice of two young women scared straight by run-in with the law than a lecture from moralizing parents, Sara and Ronen say.

Another option is to have the women, if convicted, transferred to Israeli jails. Ben-Sheetrit said an international covenant allows Israelis sentenced abroad to serve their time here — provided that Israel, the other country and the criminals themselves agree. A spokesman for the Japanese embassy in Tel Aviv would not comment on the case.

For now, Dorit and Nava continue to sit in a Japanese jail, waiting for their fate to be decided. Thousands of miles away, their parents struggle to deal with the tragedy — sharing it with some friends, relatives and associates, hiding it from others — praying for their daughters to be returned to Israel.

"A few times every day and night I ask myself what is Dorit doing now in her cell?" Ronen says. "You can't escape it. It's impossible. I'm with her all the time."

**"Some transport drugs out of naivete, a lack of awareness, under the influence of drugs or because they fell in love with someone who convinced them to carry them"**

— Shamai Golan, Authority for the War on Drugs

Each family has spent about \$50,000 so far on lawyers fees and travel to Japan, Ronen and Sara say.

If convicted, the girls could be sentenced to as much as five years in jail. At issue, Ronen and Sara say, are the two purposes of punishment: re-education and deterrence. The first goal has been accomplished, their parents say: both Dorit and Nava have expressed terrible remorse and are

personality. She cannot live with herself. That's a punishment that's far more serious than sitting in jail," Sara adds.

As for deterring other potential criminals, Sara says, "We believe that if they come back to Israel and tell their stories, that will be the best way to deter others."

The parents have been in touch with the Authority for the War on Drugs, offering to have their daughters speak to other young

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סוכנות רכישות



# Arming the Chinese dragon

Israel's got the defense technology. China wants it. Arie O'Sullivan reports on the deals defense industry executives are trying to keep secret, and on how the US is looking warily over Israel's shoulder, concerned about its links with Beijing

President Jiang Zemin of China was meeting with an important guest in a pond-side pagoda-style house Wednesday morning.

The head of the Communist Party and leader of over 1.3 billion people was supposed to be paying his first visit to the flood-stricken Hobei Province, but delayed his trip so he could meet this man, who is not even a head of state.

The man was former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger. "He's a Jew. He's very smart," said a senior Chinese official.

A short while later, another Jew, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, had an audience with Jiang.

The scheduled 30-minute meeting began with the traditional washing of hands and warm cloths and then lasted over an hour-and-a-half.

He spoke warmly of Jews. He mentioned [Karl] Marx and [Albert] Einstein, and he has a great appreciation for Jewish ingenuity," said Israeli Ambassador to China Ora Namir. "He even mentioned the drip-irrigation system we developed."

The Chinese seem to value the Jewish mind highly. But what they clearly want is "technology," and the high-tech weapons systems Jewish minds in Israel have developed during 50 years of conflict and several wars.

"We don't have any oil or diamonds or minerals in Israel. The only thing we have to sell is knowledge. We are a country overflowing with knowledge and this is our currency with which we deal with the world," said a very senior defense official.

"But we have to learn how to sell it cleverly, in such a way that we don't disrobe ourselves."

The Americans, meanwhile, are apprehensive about the cozy ties being forged on this side of the world, which, they fear, may involve the illegal transfer of US technologies in Israel's hands.

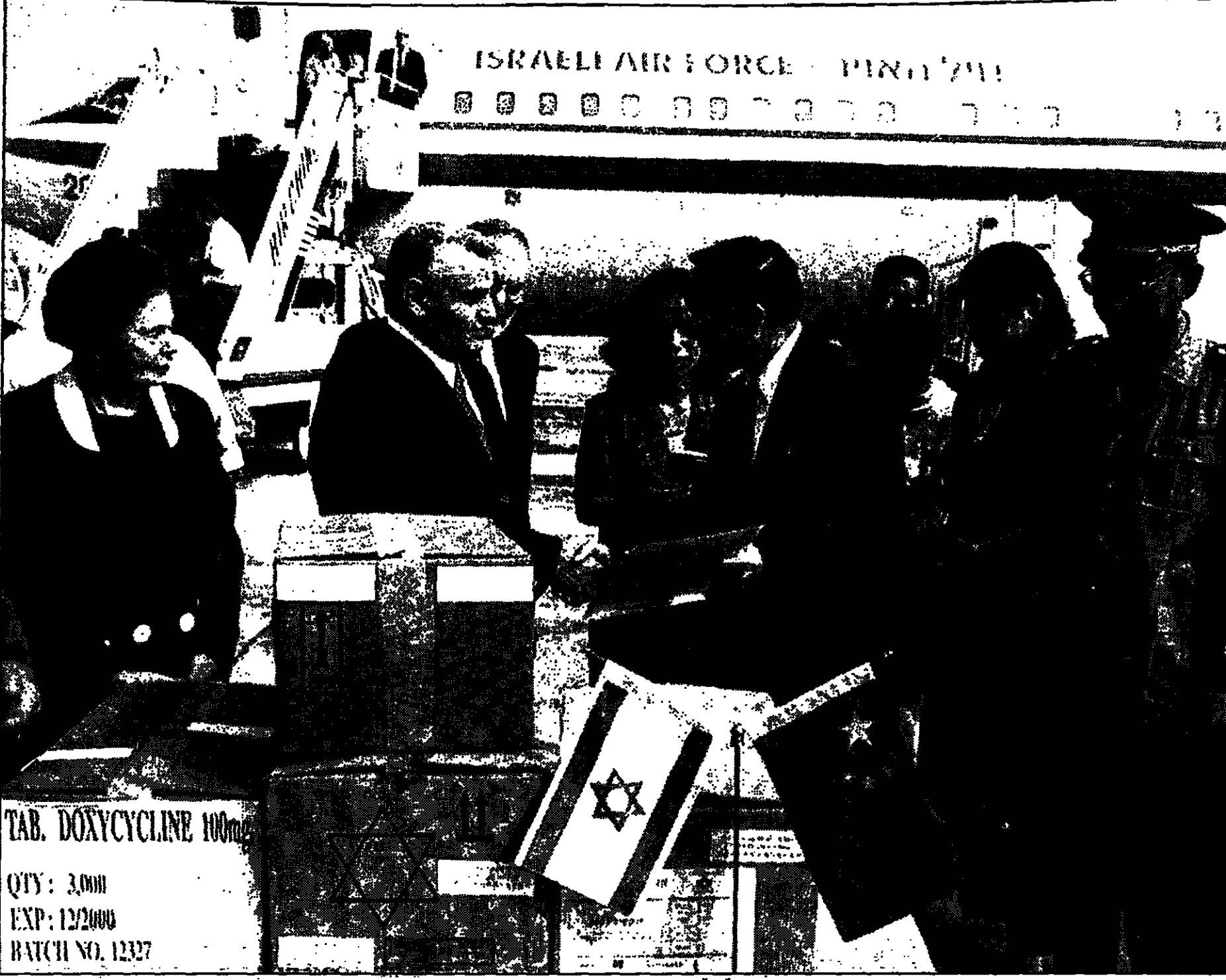
With some three million soldiers in its ranks, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is the largest in the world. There seem to be soldiers everywhere. They line Tiananmen Square, making sure small gatherings stay that way; right now, some 300,000 are battling the floods in Hobei Province.

These may be the waning days of the old Chinese Army. China is realizing that it doesn't need more troops, but better ones. The People's Liberation Army has embarked on a major reform, aimed at modernization and streamlining.

MORDECHAI came to Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing with the heads of the country's major defense industries to open doors, make contacts and win the green light from this country's leadership to make deals.

After meeting with Jiang and Defense Minister Gen. Chi Haotian, Mordechai proclaimed the mission a success. He said the blessing was given, and that the defense executives were free to go forth and cut deals.

Defense Ministry officials here pleaded with the journalists accompanying Mordechai not to report on any possible deals, claiming the Chinese were ultra-sensitive to publicity and any report that appeared would likely scuttle the deal.



In Shanghai, Defense Minister Mordechai hands over medical aid from Israel for China's flood-stricken Hobei Province, as Ambassador Ora Namir (left) looks on. (G.P.O.)

The industrialists here include the heads of Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael, TAAS-Israel Industries, El-Op, Tadiran, Rada, Elisra and Elbit. They sell anything from aircraft upgrades to targeting systems to communications.

One transaction currently under way is the sale to Beijing of a Phalcon airborne early-warning and control system (AWACS).

The \$250 million deal involves retrofitting a Russian-made Ilyushin-76 cargo plane with advanced Elta electronic, computer, radar and communications systems.

Chinese industrialists will most likely be visiting Israel in the next six months as negotiations continue.

ISRAEL's defense ties with China go back to the late 1970s, way before diplomatic relations were established in 1992. They were forged by Shaul Eisenberg, that most discreet of Jewish bil-

lionaires. The story goes that he came to then-premier Menachem Begin and told him the Chinese were ready to make a \$10 billion deal for Israel to upgrade their Soviet-designed tanks and aircraft industries.

Hundreds of skilled Israeli

during a military parade in Beijing, when Western military attaches noticed that the tanks being displayed were equipped with an Israeli-invented "thermal fume-extraction sleeve" on the barrels of their cannons.

According to the respected Stockholm International Peace

mushroomed over the years. To this day, defense officials have never confirmed the reported projects nor given a value for them.

But a study by the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency estimated Israel's total arms exports between 1984 and

that created a trust between the two countries," said a senior defense official involved in ties with China.

But the projects ran out around 1993 and military trade has declined to less than \$50m. a year, defense sources said. Government trade figures put Israeli exports to China at \$70.5m. and imports at \$206m.

ONE of the most controversial deals in the works is the reported development of the F-10 multi-role fighter jet, which is amazingly similar to the canceled Lavi fighter developed by IAI.

According to *Jane's Defense Weekly*, Israel became involved in the program in the mid-1980s and provided the avionics, radar and other technologies originally developed for the Lavi with extensive US assistance.

The jet made its first test flight in March and could be ready for full production by 2001.

Chinese defense officials declined to make any comment

**Defense ties with China predate the 1992 establishment of diplomatic relations. During the late 1970s and mid-'80s, hundreds of Israeli technicians, engineers and weapons experts began surfacing in China, reportedly entering on passports from various countries**

technicians, engineers and weapons experts began surfacing in China - having reportedly entered using passports of various countries - and were soon busy at work.

The Sino-Israeli partnership only became public knowledge

Research Institute (SIPRI), Israel's Rafael Industries granted China a license to produce the Python-3 air-combat missile, renamed PL-8 and PL-9.

So much of the defense dealing was shrouded in secrecy that estimates of its total worth have

1994 at \$5.7 billion, or a yearly average of about \$526 million.

"We supplied the goods even when the political situation deteriorated. Other countries turned and ran as a result of the events at Tiananmen Square, but we stuck to our commitments and

on either the Lavi or any other projects.

US laws forbid Israel to pass on to another country any military technology obtained directly from the US. If an Israeli company is caught violating this law it can be suspended from doing military business in the US.

Since all defense deals in Israel need Defense Ministry approval, the government bears ultimate responsibility for enforcement.

Defense sources said that US officials have quietly expressed concern over Israel's defense links with China. But last year, during a visit to Washington, Mordechai gave his US counterpart William Cohen assurances that all defense deals with China would be "transparent." That is, Israel would hide nothing, from the American administration at least.

"We are committed to limitations on what they [the Americans] are not objecting to and we are staying within the confines of those limitations," said Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's spokesman.

Other defense sources explained that the Americans don't want advanced technology developed with them to fall into the wrong hands. But they also said the screws being applied are to prevent Israeli companies from competing against US firms.

Then there is the matter of Taiwan. As a condition for establishing diplomatic relations with the Communist mainland, Israel had to downgrade its ties with Taiwan.

In his meeting with Jiang, Mordechai reemphasized Israel's policy of being committed to one China.

"This is not connected to trade," Mordechai told reporters later. "We will trade with everyone. There are no conditions on our trade."

But according to foreign reports, the late prime minister and defense minister Yitzhak Rabin promised during his visit to China in 1993 that Israel would not sell weapons to Taiwan.

ON the outskirts of Beijing, units from the 11th regiment of the Chinese army's Third Division put on a spectacular combat display, charging targets, firing 105-mm recoilless rifles and performing hand-to-hand combat.

No tanks or aircraft participated in the show.

Last September, Jiang, who is also the chairman of the Central Military Commission (commander-in-chief), announced that the PLA was to cut a million people from its three-million-strong force. Most of these will be from field units like the 11th regiment. In their place will come a more professional army with rapid deployment capabilities, armor and jets.

"The army made an assessment and decided that the environment around China would be stable for the next 15 to 20 years, so it felt the time was right for the much-needed reform," said Maj. Meng Fanwah, a liaison officer in the PLA.

According to Meng, two-thirds of the PLA's reported \$10 billion annual budget goes on food, clothing and general maintenance. The rest is divided up between R&D, procurement and training.

Because the government was dissatisfied with the performance of the local defense industries, it ordered them dismantled. A major reorganization which followed led to the creation of a military procurement apparatus.

China's defense budget is probably about three times what they declare, Israeli officials say.

"The problem here is that the Chinese haven't set aside any budget for their modernization plans," said Haim Oman, the recently appointed Israeli Defense Ministry representative in China.

"They'd prefer to buy the technology and do the refitting or production here. We are trying to convince them to go into joint ventures. It won't be easy because the British and French and the Americans, to a lesser extent, are also trying to make deals," Oman said.

When Oman takes up his post later this month, he will be reopening an office that had been closed for over a year.

Despite its problems, most analysts believe that China is limping its way to becoming a major superpower and possible rival to the US in another 20 years. So it is not hard to see why Israel, like many other countries, is keen on becoming a partner in this endeavor.

"We can compete, provided the Chinese see us as the best technically, most flexible and cooperative, most useful and cheaper," said a top defense ministry official involved in sales, [though] we won't pass on any technology that may harm our security."

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# A life broken in pieces

As if the Farida family hadn't suffered enough, Gosa Farida sat 19 months in jail for a crime he didn't commit. He got out last week, and now, he tells Larry Derfner, he must try and rebuild his life

'Maybe God created me to go through these troubles,' said Gosa Farida, 28, sitting on a couch in his family's apartment in a Kiryat Malachi slum.

It was Tuesday evening, five days after the Supreme Court overturned his conviction for attempted rape, and freed him immediately - after he had sat for 19 months in prison.

His father was lying on the next couch, his mother sitting in an easy chair.

Having emigrated from Ethiopia six years ago, they didn't understand their son's Hebrew conversation, just as they didn't understand the Hebrew program they were staring at on TV.

'They're broken,' Farida said of his parents.

What broke them was the deaths of two other sons - Kasao, a soldier in the Ethiopian army who was killed in the war with Eritrean rebels, and Taga, a father of six who was killed in the suicide bus bombing at Hadera's central bus station in April 1994.

Gosa Farida also fought in the Ethiopian civil war, and was taken prisoner by the rebels. Thousands of other Ethiopian POWs died or were killed, but Farida escaped and eventually immigrated to Israel.

His eyes flashed when he talked about the injustice done to him here, about the Beersheba police officer - also an Ethiopian immigrant - who told him, 'I'm going to see that you stay in jail until your hair turns gray.'

He talked about the neighbor and her daughter who lied in court against him, and about his first two lawyers, who seemed mainly interested in collecting their fees.

At other times Farida looked hopeful and determined, saying he planned to go out the next day and see about recovering some NIS 6,000 in back pay from an ex-employer, producing a National Labor Court ruling that the money

was rightfully his. 'Once I straighten out a few things and just calm my mind down a little, I'm going to find a job,' he said.

Sometimes, though, Farida became downcast, and he seemed helpless.

'I don't fall asleep until about four in the morning. I worry about how I'm going to make a living. I'm not sure if my fiancée will marry me - she tells me that once you've got a criminal record in Israel, no one will hire you,' he said.

'I'm a grown man, and I've got nothing.'

IN Farida's neighborhood, the yard is covered with litter, the walls are covered with graffiti. Most of the residents are Ethiopian immigrants. No doubt all of them have had hard lives.

But how many have suffered such a stunning variety of devastation - losing one brother to war in Ethiopia, then another to terror in Israel; being a POW in Ethiopia, then a prisoner in Israel - until three Supreme Court judges decided that this last ordeal had been a mistake?

Gosa Farida seems a little young to play Job.

'I was getting someplace,' he said, before he got arrested. He studied carpentry, car mechanics and Hebrew for three years at a trade school. He worked fairly steadily in construction and as a security guard.

Living at home with his family, he had some money. He met a young woman at school and got engaged.

On January 21, 1997, everything changed. Farida had been involved with an upstairs neighbor quite a bit older than himself. He told the woman he was breaking it off because he had gotten engaged, and the woman started shouting at him on the stairwell.



Farida: 'I'm not sure if my fiancée will marry me - she tells me that once you've got a criminal record in Israel, no one will hire you.'

At one point the argument got so bad that he pushed her, Farida said. Two days later, Beersheba police came looking for him.

'I thought it was because I'd pushed her,' he said.

But no - they wanted him for something more serious.

The woman and her 17-year-old daughter had told police that Farida had come into the daughter's bedroom, thrown her to the floor, torn off her underwear and tried to choke and rape her before the mother came to the rescue.

'I've never touched that girl in my life,' Farida said.

He said he offered to take a lie-detector test, but the police never gave him one. He was in jail for a year awaiting trial before his case came to the Beersheba District Court.

The prosecution presented torn underwear to the court, but aside from that, the case was based primarily on the testimony of the mother and the daughter; a friend of the daughter's also testified he had met the girl later on the day of

the alleged assault and that she, crying, had told him about it. Apparently no medical evidence of assault was submitted.

The court convicted Farida and sentenced him to 2½ years in prison.

He spent some NIS 5,000 on the trial lawyer, and later about NIS 2,000 on the first appeal lawyer, who also lost.

Prison actually turned out to be of some benefit, he said.

Being away from Ethiopians - he was the only Ethiopian in Ohalei Kedar Prison - he learned to speak and read Hebrew, and to stand up for himself around Israelis. He helped out the prison guards and served meals.

'I proved I was capable. The guards used to ask me: 'You seem like a normal guy - how did you get into prison?' and I'd tell them, 'All kinds of bad things happened.'

Having put Jewish observance more or less aside in Israel, Farida became observant again in prison.

'I needed it. I was almost broken, and I thought maybe it would help if I prayed.'

He found the will to try for another appeal, and this time he hooked up with attorney Esther Bar-Zion - 'the great Esther Bar-Zion,' is how he puts it. She convinced the Supreme Court to see, finally, that Farida he was not guilty.

JUSTICES Shlomo Levin, Dalia Dorner and Hanoch Arie found that the Beersheba District Court had not given sufficient weight to the 'contradictions' in the 17-year-old girl's testimony, and to the possibility that the girl's loyalty to her mother had influenced her statements, Bar-Zion said.

The mother still lives upstairs. 'When I came home and everybody was here to see me, she came in and said, 'Welcome,' Farida noted. As far as he knew, the daughter was in the army.

For now, Farida said he's filling his days cleaning and fixing things around the house, and trying to get his affairs back in order.

'The police took my ID card, so I went back to the police station to get it. They said they didn't have it anymore, so now I have to go to the Interior Ministry to get a new one. Then I have to go to the Labor Ministry, the Absorption Ministry, another ministry - I don't know where to start.'

His fiancée can't help but be a little upset with him, Farida continued. 'She asks me, 'How did you manage to get into such a mess?'

Farida said he's already gotten a couple of job offers from contractors he knows, and expects to be back at work in a week or two.

In all, he was 'a little bitter' over what he'd been through - nothing more.

'I've been down, but I'll never let myself fall all the way, and in the end maybe God will raise me up high,' he said.

Asked where he saw himself in another year or two, Farida replied, 'I hope I'll be married, and maybe we'll move to the center of the country, where there's work. Maybe I'll go back to school.'

'Right now I just want to clear my mind, and then I want to try to start a new life.'

## Dry Bones



## GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

'What are you doing here?' asked Hadassah Hospital's Professor Eliezer Rachmilewitz as he spied international business entrepreneur Sammy Ofer at the poolside plaza of the Holiday Inn in Jerusalem. 'I heard they were giving away food for free,' retorted Ofer, who happens to be one of the wealthiest men in Israel. The occasion was the official launch of the Oasis Fish Restaurant, the second eatery to be opened at the hotel by popular restaurateurs Reena and Vinod Pushkarna.



Restaurateur Pushkarna

'PEOPLE celebrate an opening. I'm celebrating a closing,' said Esther Rubin, grande dame of Israel's art world, when she invited friends and art lovers to a luncheon at Tel Aviv's Rubin Museum for a last look at paintings by her late husband Reuven. The paintings were brought to the museum, once the Rubin family abode, in celebration of Israel's jubilee, and are to be returned to public and private collections in Israel and abroad.

Just as the paintings reflected a large slice of Israel's history, so did the guests. They included such well-known public figures as Reuma Weizman, Leah Rabin, Shulamit Shamir and Ruth Tekoa. Ziva Lahat, Ruth Bondy, Colette Avital and Aviva Marks also came along, as did Shoshana Ben-Tzur and legendary Jerusalem schoolteacher Hava Ya'ari. National celebrities such as Dan Meridor and Nahman Shai were also on hand.

COMMITMENTS abroad prevented Dana International from getting together earlier this year with some 30 or so people who, directly or indirectly, had contributed to her Eurovision success. This week she invited them all to a special 'thank you' celebration in a glass-walled 18th-floor suite at the Radisson Moriah Plaza overlooking the panorama of greater Tel Aviv. Most of them accepted. Smoking endlessly, a pony-tailed Dana, clad in black T-shirt, blue jeans and black Adidas ankle boots, sat in a corner, leaping forward enthusiastically to greet each of her guests as they arrived. Part of the room was decorated with feathers in tribute to Jean Paul Gaultier, whose couture creation for her win was richly adorned with plumage.

Gaultier, who returned to Paris at the beginning of the week, promised to be back for next year's Eurovision, which will be hosted here at a cost of some \$8 million. Israel Television chief Yair Stern confessed that when he saw the initial clip of 'Viva Victoria,' the Zvika Pick composition with which Dana eventually won, he didn't think it had a chance. Dana International, he said, had given the world a different picture of Israel. Having the Eurovision here next year will provide a great opportunity to

promote Israel to the world, Stern said, serving as a perfect prelude to the anticipated tourism wave in 2000.

ILLNESS has led Beverlee Black, popular director of *The Jerusalem Post* Funds, to step down from her position, though she will continue to take an interest. As fourth director of the funds, which celebrate their 50th anniversary in November, Black broadened the base of distribution both categorically and geographically. Through moneys contributed by *Jerusalem Post* readers in Israel and abroad, she was able to help children, new immigrants and the elderly on an individual basis and through institutions and community centers which served their needs. She also initiated the annual Jerusalem Post Arts and Crafts Fair, held during the intermediate days of Pessah. The fair increased the funds' revenues, provided an additional avenue of income for the nation's artists and artisans, and gave hundreds of visitors hours of pleasure.

WHEN Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert attended the launching this week of the Time Elevator, the capital's newest and most fascinating tourist attraction, he recalled that he and the project's creative head, Ori Yardeni, had served together on Army Radio some 30 years ago. Each has since gone a long way, albeit in different directions. Also traveling a long way is Haim Topol, the Time Elevator guide who takes visitors through the ages, from the time of David and Solomon to the Six Day War.

Topol was unable to come to the opening because he is in Melbourne, giving his 2,000th performance as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. But, if truth be told, he comes across much more convincingly in the role of Sholem in the Time Elevator, where he is nothing short of brilliant.

The pre-show reception, hosted by Yardeni and his partners Danny Rubinstein and Ezra Harel, was in keeping with the early periods depicted by the Time Elevator. Actors dressed in biblical garb mingled with guests such as Yaffa Yarkoni, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and MK Emanuel Zissmann, who all dined on biblical fare and quaffed wines and juices served from clay carafes.

ISRAELI model and actor Raz Dagan, a handsome kibbutznik from Sede Nehemia who is currently studying drama in New York, is about to embark on his fifth movie. In the film, which will be shot in Rome, he plays the son of Jessica Lang. It's a major break for Dagan, who screen-tested with hundreds of other hopefuls and passed with flying colors.



Dana International gives thanks. (Brian Handler)

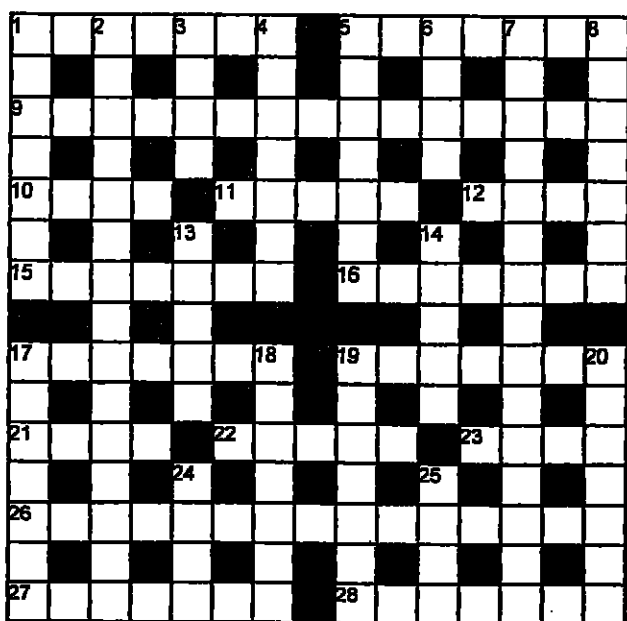
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

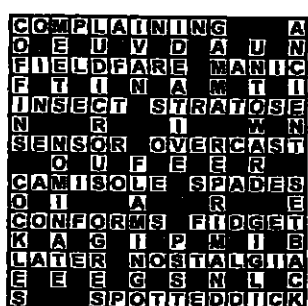
- 1 Kissing in a sort of order (7)
- 5 Said to run from seating area in cinema (7)
- 9 Term girl had for flower (10,5)
- 10 Understand king's present (4)
- 11 Quickly grab wife that's going to faint (5)
- 12 Unassisted thus, look! (4)
- 15 Not one or two, but in three pieces (7)
- 16 Danced, having taken hallucinogenic drugs (7)
- 17 Allrite, shocking misprint (7)
- 19 Artificial feeding order (7)
- 21 Manner is humble, we hear (4)

### DOWN

- 22 Submarine about to manoeuvre (1,4)
- 23 Would be happy in bed? Not that much (4)
- 26 Free from threatening hangover (3,7,5)
- 27 A light, Ted turned to get water (7)
- 28 Sea creature beat its victim (7)
- 1 Keep asking family for gourd (7)
- 2 Unwanted youngster mad at home (6,2,3,4)
- 3 One's always showing surprised expression (1,3)
- 4 Wide gap between combatants here? (4,3)



## SOLUTIONS



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ACROSS: 7 Rhodes, 8 Weeper, 10 Graphic, 11 Large, 12 Deep, 13 Found, 17 Loyal, 18 Fuzz, 22 Delta, 23 Location, 24 Apples, 25 Spiced. DOWN: 1 Tragedy, 2 Voyager, 3 Delit, 4 Selling, 5 Spare, 6 Creep, 9 Scholarly, 14 Rotates, 15 Justice, 16 Preside, 19 Ideal, 20 Flaps, 21 Scope.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

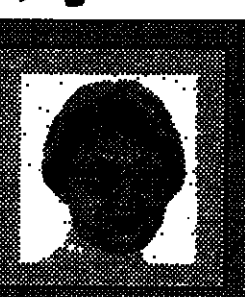
- 1 Nil (7)
- 5 Acting (5)
- 8 Vision (5)
- 9 Merciful (7)
- 10 Sweet-brier (9)
- 12 Golf peg (3)
- 13 Costlier (8)
- 14 Vestiges (5)
- 17 Ignited (3)
- 18 Destructively (9)
- 20 Back tooth (7)
- 21 Timepiece (5)
- 23 Yonder (5)
- 24 Soporific (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Elbow (5)
- 2 Part of foot (3)
- 3 Huge (7)
- 4 French (6)
- 5 eg Waltz (5)
- 6 The same (9)
- 7 Infer (7)
- 11 However (US) (9)
- 13 Pleasure (7)
- 15 Bring into sight again (7)
- 16 A noisy sleeper (5)
- 18 Insignia (5)
- 19 Country bumpkin (5)
- 22 Not on (3)



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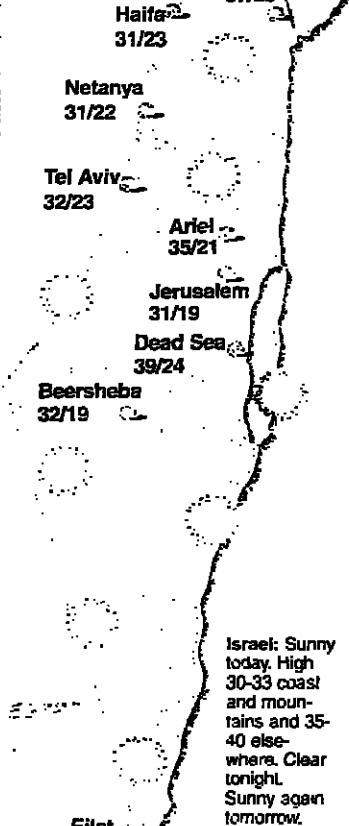




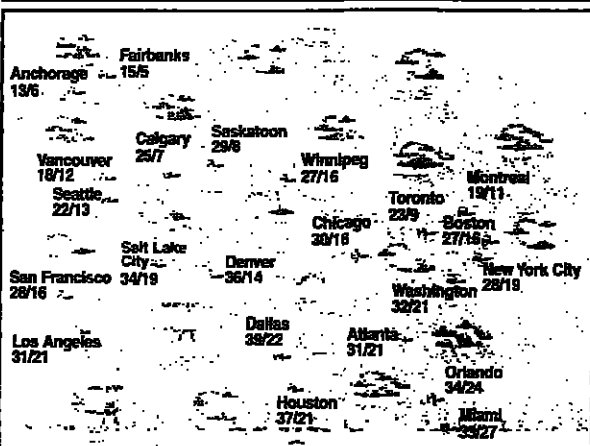
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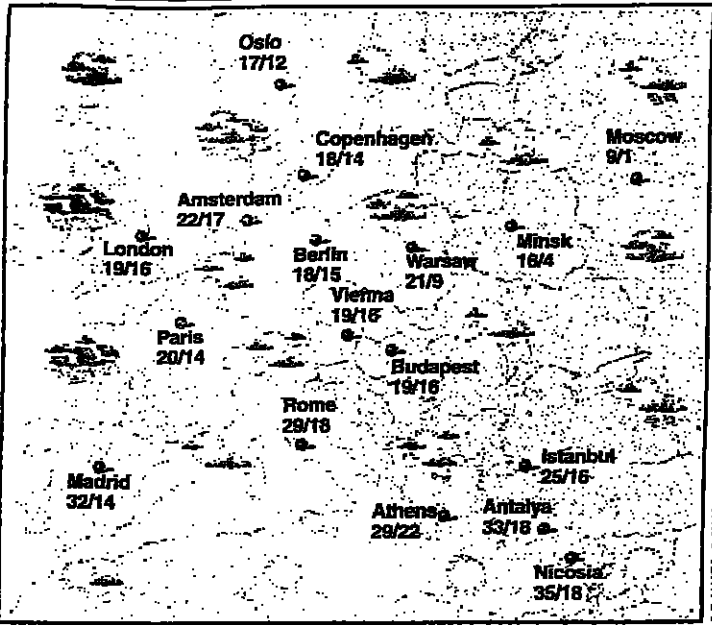
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### NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



### EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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City	Today		Saturday		Sunday		Monday	
	High C/F	Low/W C/F	High C/F	Low/W C/F	High C/F	Low/W C/F	High C/F	Low/W C/F
Aniel	35/65	21/70	34/53	20/55	34/53	20/55	35/65	22/71
BeerSheva	32/89	19/55	30/85	19/55	30/85	19/55	30/89	19/55
Dead Sea	39/102	24/75	39/100	24/75	39/100	24/75	39/100	23/73
Eilat	39/102	27/80	37/98	26/78	39/102	27/80	37/98	26/78
Haifa	31/88	23/73	30/86	22/71	30/85	23/73	31/88	23/73
Jerusalem	31/88	19/55	29/84	17/50	29/84	19/55	31/88	19/55
Katzi	30/87	14/57	30/87	12/53	33/91	14/57	31/85	15/59
Netanya	31/88	22/71	31/88	22/71	30/86	23/73	31/88	23/73
Tel Aviv	32/88	23/73	31/88	22/71	31/88	23/73	32/88	23/73
Tzfat	30/88	20/55	30/87	21/70	30/87	21/70	30/88	20/55
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Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, hail, snow flurries, snow, fog.

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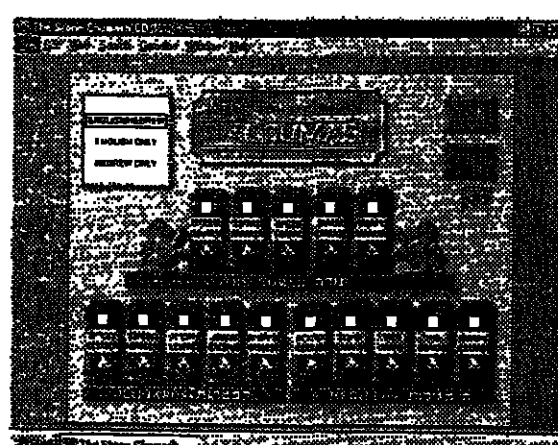
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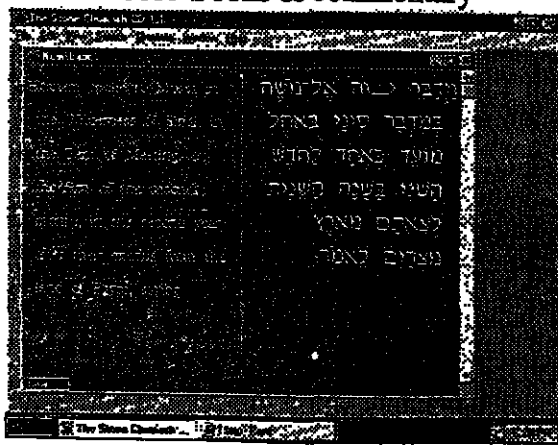
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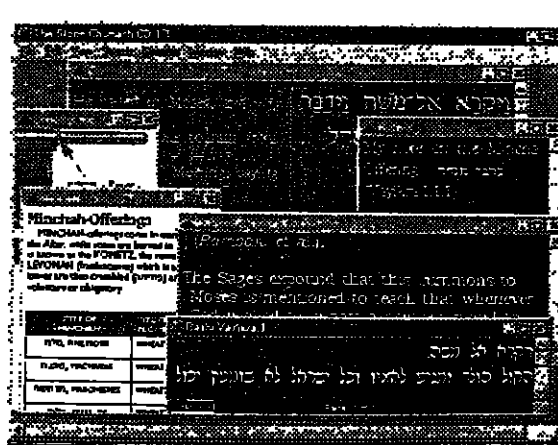
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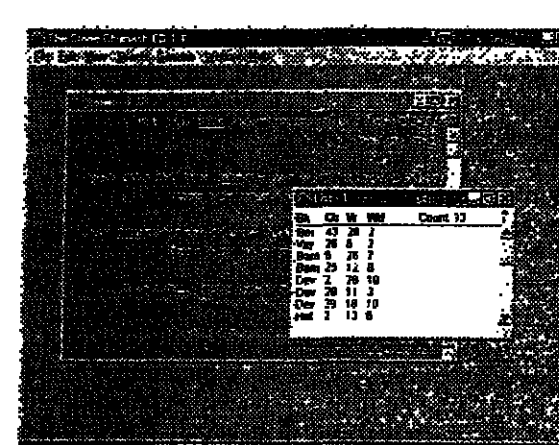
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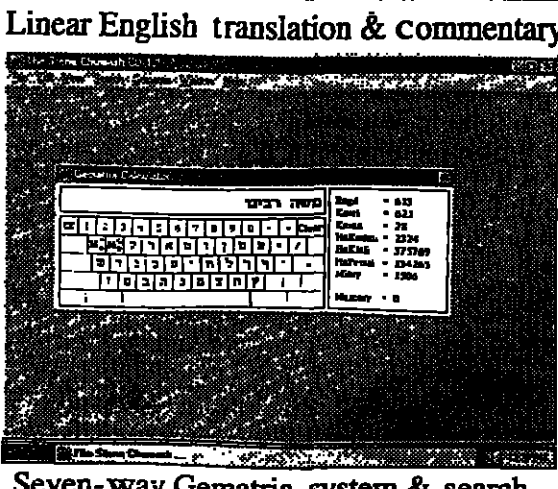


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## Inside

## SA sports heroes honored

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Sports Editors  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## Surrey jolted by Yorkshire

LONDON (Reuters) - County championship leaders Surrey suffered a jolt to their hopes of winning the title for the first time since 1971 when Yorkshire shot them out for only 147 at Headingley yesterday.

That gave the home side a first innings lead of 103, which they extended to 245 by the close, with six wickets left.

The rapidly improving Scottish bowler Gavin Hamilton, who collected only 18 wickets in nine matches last season, did the damage by taking seven for 50.

That followed his six for 50 against Essex and 10 wickets in the match against Glamorgan over the past month.

Even before the current round of matches, Surrey's long standing lead had been cut to 15 points over Leicestershire, who continued to prosper.

They bowled out Warwickshire for 276 and set them 405 to win.

Victory for Leicestershire today would mean a change of leadership even if Surrey hold out for a draw against Yorkshire.

## Knockin' at Ruth's door

McGwire reaches 59, ties Babe for 3rd place in season HRs

MIAMI (AP) - Mark McGwire hit a pair of home runs for the second consecutive night Wednesday against Florida, giving him a career-best 59. He needs just two more to tie Roger Maris' 37-year-old Major League Baseball record.

McGwire homered in the seventh inning against Brian Edmondson and again in the eighth on the first pitch from Rob Stanifer.

By reaching 59, he ties Yankees great Babe Ruth for third place for the most home runs in a season. Ruth had 59 in 1921. Ruth also holds second place with 60 in 1927.

Each of McGwire's blasts was a two-run homer, helping the St. Louis Cardinals win 14-4.

The first homer, which landed halfway up in the upper deck in left field, was estimated at 497 feet, making it the third-longest in the history of Pro Player Stadium. The second homer was to left center and traveled an estimated 458 feet.

In his first three at-bats, McGwire grounded into a double play, walked twice and scored on pitcher Kent Mercker's grand slam in the fourth. Mercker (9-11) allowed two earned runs in seven innings.

Jesus Sanchez (6-8) took the loss. Mark Kotsay homered for Florida.

ASTROS 4, BRAVES 2

Houston's Randy Johnson dominated host Atlanta for eight innings and easily won the showdown with four-time Cy Young

winner Greg Maddux. Johnson allowed only four hits and fanned 10, the 99th time he's reached double figures in strikeouts, second in baseball history to Nolan Ryan's 215.

Johnson (6-1) batted in the ninth and began warming up for the final inning before feeling a cramp in his left leg. The trainer came out and then walked back to the dugout with Johnson at his side.

The Astros pounded Maddux (17-7) for 10 hits in seven innings, scoring all of their runs on three homers.

CUBS 4, REDS 2

Sammy Sosa hit his 56th homer to tie Hack Wilson's 68-year-old club record and Gary Gaetti added a two-run shot for host Chicago.

Sosa, leading off the bottom of the sixth, hit an 0-1 pitch from Cincinnati's Jason Bere into the first row of the right-field bleachers.

GIANTS 12, EXPOS 3

Barry Bonds hit his fourth home run in four games and Jeff Kent had two doubles and four RBIs for host San Francisco.

ARIZONA 2, PIRATES 1 (11)

Tony Batista hit a tying home run in the top of the ninth, then tripled and scored on Devon White's single in the 11th as Arizona takes a team-record five-game winning streak.

BREWERS 8, ROCKIES 4

Jeff Cirillo, Dave Nilsson and Jeremy Burnitz hit two-run homers in Milwaukee's home victory.

See BASEBALL, Page 23



THREE TO GO - Cardinals' Mark McGwire hits his 58th home run in the seventh inning of Wednesday's game against the Marlins. He belted his 59th one inning later. McGwire needs three more to break Roger Maris' record. (Reuters)

## Israel take on Austria tomorrow

By ORI LEWIS

Israeli soccer will again get the chance to prove itself against major international opposition tomorrow night when in Vienna, the national team take on Austria in the opening match of their bid to qualify for the finals of Euro 2000.

The Israel squad, under the guidance of Shlomo Scharf, now in his fourth term as national coach, have yet to raise the level of their performance and produce a result in official competition (not international friendlies) which justify the hopes of a nation which is desperate for success at the highest level and a repeat of the highs of 1970, when the national team played in the World Cup finals in Mexico.

Israel's last away win against a major soccer nation in official competition was the 3-2 win over France in the qualifying competition for USA '94 in Paris, and the last away draw against strong opposition was the 2-2 draw against Bulgaria in Sofia in the same campaign.

Israel is undoubtedly the underdogs for tomorrow's match but there is plenty of talent in the side and no little experience. All Israeli eyes will be on Eyal Berkovic, Haim Revivo and Ronen Harazi, who will have to lead from the front against the formidable Austrians led by Ivica Vasic and striker Mario Haas.

Scharf has talked about getting a result - not losing - against the Austrians, who are effectively Israel's rivals for second place in qualifying group 6 behind Spain.

The group is made up by Cyprus and whipping boys San Marino.

A loss for Israel would effectively make capturing second place, assuming that Spain clinch top spot - almost impossible, so a supreme effort will be required from the boys in blue and white come kickoff time tomorrow at 21:30.

Scharf is probably going to pick experience instead of youth - Rafi Cohen instead of Nir Davidovich for the goalkeeping spot despite the former's poor form.

Scharf is likely to stay with the successful 3-5-2 formation which saw Israel win an unprecedented five straight matches - albeit all friendlies - before the 2-0 loss to Poland last month. The back three of Arik Benado, Amir Shelah and Ran Ben-Shimon have combined well together, while the boldest midfield will comprise Yossi Abuksis, David Amstam, Berkovic, Walid Badir, who will probably have the job of marking Vasic, either Jan Talasnikov who has an injury scare, or Alon Harazi, Revivo and potent striker Ronen Harazi.

Austria are fairly suspect at the back and will be without two defensive stalwarts, Heimo Pfeifferberger and Arnold Weib. But this should not make the Israelis complacent and they should take note that their hosts are the type of team they do not do well against a big, strong and not too technical side.

Due to the international fix, there will not be any National League fixtures tomorrow.

## Hingis joins Williams, Sanchez Vicario in 3rd round

NEW YORK (Reuters) - World No. 1 Martina Hingis passed the first real test of her US Open title defence with flying colours yesterday.

Faced with a player she had previously met in a Grand Slam final in only the second round at Flushing Meadow, the sensational Swiss teenager turned back Iva Majoli of Croatia 7-6 6-0 in 65 minutes in a match postponed by Wednesday night rain.

It was Majoli, who last year denied Hingis an historic Grand Slam sweep by beating her in the French Open final.

Hingis has since repeatedly punished Majoli for that loss and has now beaten her four consecutive times without the loss of a set.

Majoli, whose ranking has slipped to 21 after being seeded fourth here

last year, battled back from 1-4 down in the first set to force the tie-break. But Hingis took the breaker 7-4 and was off to the races.

Hingis was joined in the third round by fourth-seeded former champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and fifth seed Venus Williams, who made short work of a pair of qualifiers earlier yesterday.

Williams, last year's runner-up in her US Open debut, overpowered 137th-ranked Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 6-1 6-3 in 58 minutes, while French Open champion and 1994 US Open winner Sanchez Vicario needed one more game and 12 more minutes to outrun 129th-ranked Colombian Fabiola Zuluaga 6-3 6-2.

Pint-sized power-hitter Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the 13th seed, beat them both to the locker room with a 6-0 6-2, 55-minute rout of another qualifier, Raluca Sandu of Romania, fiance of French Open champion Carlos Moya.

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